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OF THE

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

A HISTORICAL MAGAZINE FOR THE PEOPLE

*A record of resources and of men,
For twelve full score years and ten.*

JAMES N. ARNOLD, EDITOR

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THE
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PRE-HISTORIC RHODE ISLAND.

By the Editor.

IN the Narragansett Country there is perhaps opened to the scholar who delights in such things, as rich a field for prehistoric study, as can be found anywhere in New England and it is indeed strange to me that this rich field has been hitherto entirely unexplored.

To begin this interesting study, let us commence with our own immediate predecessor here, the Indian. This race of mankind, has left his names upon our rivers, bays and lakes, and even many of our states carry names that he gave. In the nomenclature of our country, how much is here for a study and how many interesting and important facts they bring to mind? Truly it can be said, "The author has gone, but the word he spake is yet here."

Here then at the beginning of our theme we find sermons standing out from single words.

The Indians of Narragansett as were represented by Canonius and Miantonomi in the days of Roger Williams, claim that their tribe had not possessed the land here but a few generations. They had worked their way from the interior. They claim to have driven out a powerful people. These claims have been doubted by some annalists who think the Indians have colored somewhat their narratives. Perhaps these annalists judge the Indians by themselves, which has been said to be righteous judgement.

If we will bear this claim in mind and then read the description of the aboriginals as portrayed by the Norsemen from time to time, it will be seen that this description does not agree with a description of those people who were our own immediate predecessor here.

The narratives of the Norsemen have been doubted by some authorities, but why they should not be as correct as the narratives of the travels of men of other nations, appears to me singular, to say the least.

The description of the system of worship as found among the aboriginals here, is identical with that of the Sun Worshipers as practiced by the Mound Builders. The Norsemen have fully described this system of worship and these people, and the Indian claiming he had reached the shore not many generations ago are in harmony with each other and so closely do they agree, that we can approximate to within a few years the time of the victory of the Indian over the Mound Builder. All this goes to show that the two narratives are strictly true.

If we will compare what the Norseman has said in regard to their strength and power, it will be found that the Indian had not a weak foe by any means to combat with, and here the two narratives are in remarkable harmony with each other.

In brief, we think that the Norse Legends or more properly speaking, Narratives, and the Indian stories of former races whom they conquered, are entitled to more credit than is actually given to them by historians, yet we are pleased to note that latter historians who have made themselves familiar with both are more disposed to give credit to these narratives.

It is a striking fact in the history of man, that when one nation conquers another, and the conqueror occupied the land of the conquered, that he is sure to adopt more or less the religious symbols of the defeated. When this fact is duly considered the reason of religious similarities in widely separated tribes becomes apparent.

To make this plain we will take a striking example. In the Narragansett Country there are several sacred circles and here is the Indian tradition concerning them.

When an Indian dies it was believed that his spirit did not depart finally for the Happy Hunting Grounds or Paradise, until he had received the blessings of the tribe. While his spirit was hovering over the remains his family and friends viewed the body of the departed in awed silence. At the appointed time, the remains were conveyed to this place and deposited in the centre of the circle. The interlocutor then took his assigned place. He then commenced a series of questions, that would startle a preacher of today could he hear them or were they asked him. Instead of hearing the usual eulogy that appears so popular today, the old Indian Priest would commence by enquiring for the bad deeds that had been committed by the departed and sternly commanded they should be told him then and there. Nothing was to be kept back under penalty of losing their future happiness in the world to come, for this was considered the great unpardonable sin that could not be forgiven. Here certainly was

the strongest inducement that could ever be offered to tempt a man to tell the truth.

If it was found that the departed was unworthy, then he was pronounced *Bad Indian*, and his spirit was ordered to depart without the message. If he was found worthy then the message was given him.

It was a fraternal greeting from the living to those who had gone before. This made the worthy a messenger and this was the last work he could perform for the living.

After the message had been given, the remains were accompanied to the place of burial and deposited. The message was repeated and for the last time, and he charged to remember. A supply of food and water was placed with the body sufficient to last the journey to Paradise and the admonition was given to make haste.

Here comes in the singularity of this ceremony. It is identical with that of ancient Egypt, when Memphis was the great city of the dead, and when the departed was rowed across the Sacred Nile to the Sacred Gate, where they were met by the Interlocutor, who asked these very questions and sternly commanded the truth to be told him under a similar penalty. If found worthy, the departed was bade welcome to the last resting place prepared for the just and the true. If unworthy, depart ye accursed to the place prepared for the condemned. Here is the idea from whence came the future life in Heaven and in Hell.

The query now arises how came this eastern custom engrafted so strongly upon the religious ideas of the people found here, and from whence did they obtain it? This we shall mention further on, but here we will briefly say, that this idea was certainly borrowed from nations now extinct.

These circles are perfectly round and we should think about fifty feet across. We intend to have an accurate measure of

these some time in the future. They appear to be all about the same size. These are the only remains of the work of the pure Narragansett Indian that are today, so far as we know in existence.

We are firmly of the opinion that our immediate predecessor here did not invent anything new in religious ideas but borrowed the whole from the one he conquered and we have no doubt that the conquered had far loftier ideas of right and wrong than his conqueror. These ideas became the booty and in this way the conquered again becomes the conqueror.

Of what kindred were these people we are now speaking of, whom our Indian conquered as we have in the course of time conquered him?

They were Mound Builders and their works are large and extensive in the Narragansett Country. The Norsemen describes scenes that harmonize with this people, and this comes down to a time that can be very closely approximated. The Indian had not occupied this place 175 years before the settlement here by the English. There is no way that these narratives can be made to extend beyond this period and we think they will fall inside this estimate. This shows a wonderful harmony with the Norse narratives.

It will be found, therefore, that the year 1470 was about the time that occurred this overthrow and the establishment of the Indian supremacy in the Narragansett Country.

This brings us to the query, from whence came these Mound Builders?

The subject now becomes interesting, for here begins to dawn upon us grand and lofty ideas of aboriginal life that we at one time did not think possible to have existed on

these domains we now claim as ours, and of which we are today enjoying. How many secrets O Earth, lie entombed in thy bosom? How many scenes hast thou witnessed here on these lands O Sun? How much hast thou written O Time on the silent annals of the past.

Ignatius Donnelley has published a work treating on Atlantis, which is indeed one of the most fascinating narratives ever written, and is worthy of being read by every scholar. Mr. Donnelley is right in his conclusions. He shows that a powerful nation existed on the great tropical shoal that covers most of the space between Northern Africa and Northern South America. He shows, and we think conclusively, that land existed here except a space of water one hundred and fifty leagues wide on the African side and somewhat wider on the American side which latter passage was broken by numerous islands. To the north and south of this belt was a wide expanse of water. With this land before them and inhabited as it was by a powerful people that was well known to the ancient nations of antiquity. These Atlantians had in the main the same religious ideas as the nations around them. They had pushed their conquests far to the west and when we come to test Mr. Donnelley's theory by the tradition of the Mexicans we find these people (the Atlantians), were known to them and they claimed they were the colonies of these people. With such a passage before them, what was therefore, to hinder the same religious ideas being planted on American soil that existed in Asia and Africa? Nothing.

It is now clear that through the Atlantians was transplanted the religious faith of ancient Egypt to America. These colonies having obtained a foothold in Mexico, they had to fight for existence with those nations here before them and as they conquered they extended their dominions, and

thus the centuries past away. This path was steady from the South-west to the North-east and in course of time they reached these shores.

We are convinced that Narragansett was the seat of the eastern Empire and narratives show that this conquest was pushed as far north from here as it was possible to go.

These people in their migrations carried their religious standard with them and as these symbols when they once become firmly settled in the heart of the nation will endure for centuries, we see no reason in the world to doubt the truth of this path of emigration.

The destruction of Atlantis in a night by the Gods was indeed an appalling catastrophe such as the world has never since witnessed.

The ancient Mexicans say that these people were a mighty band of warriors. that they had conquered many nations, that they had committed many cruelties, and so hard-hearted were they, that the cry to the Gods which the poor captive had sent up for a long period of years was at length heard by them and they decided to remove them in a night. The earth trembled and it seemed that the day of doom had come. When the earth was calm again, it was found that this great nation had entirely disappeared and that now the ocean rolled its waters over the land the Atlantians had once claimed as theirs. This catastrophe is remembered in all the western nations, but the Peruvians and Mexicans had the clearest and best narrative of the event. These people add that the Gods at that time decreed, henceforth the east and the west should forever remain separate from each other.

We have said that having built up colonies in Mexico, they worked this way to our own shores in the course of the centuries. Here in the Narragansett Country they founded the seat of a government. All this took time to accomplish.

It is conclusive that our Indians here had intermarried into the nation they conquered in time past, and of course they learned the direction of the emigration which was a distinct feature in the religious faith of the Mound Builders. These people had an annual festival, which perpetuated this event in their history. The Mounds were their altars and from the summits thereof they held worship and from here they looked reverently to the South-west, for there were the homes of their fathers and there the spirit of the child would fly for refuge when released by death from its earthly habitation.

They came on to these mounds from the north-east and when they marched on to their altar they would be like children coming home, and when after paying their respects they turned back, they faced the direction of the conquest.

This was indeed a beautiful symbol. A long look to the South-west, for, from that direction our fathers came. A long look to the North-east, for, in that direction we have ever extended our conquests. This with addresses appropriate to the occasion made this the Great Historic Field Day and the principle events in the nations history was in this manner brought to the comprehension of every mind.

These mounds in the Narragansett Country bear this mark. The approach was from the north-east so as to reverently face the direction of the home of their fathers, and when they were dismissed to face the direction of the conquest.

How natural and how beautiful this symbol!

The nation that came after them retained this symbol of the South-west. As the father came from that direction, so in that direction the child would return to its parents home.

At stated seasons adoration was paid to the Sun and Moon from these altars.

We think from the number of these Mounds in Narragansett that it must have been the seat of the Eastern Empire, and this is strongly confirmed by several circumstances and traditions of the Narragansett Indians.

These Mounds we speak of are round with a flat top. The Great Mound at Charlestown has a flat surface and is several acres in extent, and is indeed an altar fitted for any people who worship nature from her hills.

We call your attention to this fact, that the peculiar slope of the Narragansett Country is toward the South-west.

To occupy a land having this feature to a remarkable degree must have impressed the religious and historical fact upon the minds of the people with great significance.

Again, the idea of Eden which is a land whose waters flow to the four Cardinal points of the compass is here brought very conspicuously into view.

A third and very striking feature about this section of our State is its climate which is far warmer than that of the adjoining lands, and this has been called the "Summer Land" for centuries, and perhaps on this account.

The occasion of this perhaps has been the action of the Gulf Stream, which at this point makes a decided curve, and this curve would be the very means to bring the Gulf Wind over the land in such a manner as to gain its full benefit.

The peculiarity of climate has made the fruit grown here noted for its peculiar flavor and richness, and perhaps a greater variety of fruit can be produced here than anywhere else in this country. This peculiarity was noted by the Norsemen and by the Indians here also. These Indians gave the idea to our fathers which induced them to make the great planting of apple trees which trade in apples was once an important

item in trade here and the remains of these orchards are now visible in many of our country towns.

These people designated the Indians the "Wild Brothers," and we find several authorities that give them this title.

We want now to go back another step and take up a race of men that were here before the Mound Builders. These we shall call the "Druids of the West," or "Stone Worshipers." These people were Sun Worshipers in the purest form and the remains of their works are also numerous in Rhode Island.

Their Cromlechs can be found in southern Rhode Island, and we have evidence that their works are scattered over our entire State. We have no doubt that we shall discover more of these remains in the future, and that many will fail of discovery as they approach so near to nature.

Our studies so far lead us to this conclusion, that these people were identical in their manner of worship with those of the Ancient Druids of Britain.

Druidical authorities claim that Britain was once the great seat of worship for all Europe and from here went forth the spiritual law for all these people.

There are today in Wales a remnant of this Sect, and they worship in the same way and manner as did their fathers more than three thousand years ago.

A careful study of the Welsh Cromlech and drawings as described in illustrated papers, taken here on our own soil and compared with remains here will go far to convince one that the Druid or Stone Worshiper once held dominion here and these remains will be found as fascinating a study as one can well conceive.

To commence, let us take the rolling stones of which there are two classes among us. One is the flat rolling stone and

such a type as found at Apponaug and is known as the Drumming Rock. In Narragansett there are several more of this class. We are confident more can be found in other portions of the State.

Some claim these were used by our Indians and we have no doubt they were. This does not militate in the least against the fact that they might or were used by a nation or people before them.

Another class is the round boulder placed on the brow of a hill or on an open plain, but in all cases upon the flat surface of a rock. These have been thought by some authors to have been the work of nature only, but we are assured by those who have made this a study that they were placed there by man. That nature has done such work so near as to deceive one as to which was the work of man we admit. We are told this is a symbol of the Sun and when a smaller one of similar shape is near that the smaller one represents the Moon, and as such were used and revered by these people.

There are several examples of these in the Narragansett Country.

We suppose most of our readers will dissent from us, yet we are persuaded that if the Narragansett Indians made those rings on the Soapstone Ledge at Johnston, it was in commemoration of some religious symbol that they had obtained from some earlier nation. These rings are in strict harmony with that of the sacred circle of which we have already treated and it is plausible to think the two cotemporary. Yet if this was cut upon a harder stone we should without any hesitation place it in the age of the Stone Worshippers, and it is more than possible that they really belong here in this period.

The idea that an Indian made a pot, and then dug around it to get it out, is to me absurd. It seems to me the most

proper way, the piece should first be detached from the ledge and then worked out to a finish in such form as might be desired.

What were the object of these rings may well be asked here. They belong to the religious system of those people, and are a form of Sun Worship. The articles upon the Cup and Rings of this character that have been recently published are worthy of deep study and if one will take the trouble to read them, the Indian idea would become very strongly shaken.

We think that the Wolf Rocks in Exeter is one of the finest subject for study in the State. We have made several excursions here and every one has but deepened the interest. We firmly believe that this is an ancient Druidical Temple and that it was a fine one in its day, and was once highly revered as a holy place by a people whose history has been written and the book closed.

At what period these people came here we have no means at present of deciding definitely. We think however, these were the people whom the Mound Builders conquered

There is evidence extant to show that this form of Sun Worship was once prevalent over the whole of the United States. It would not be out of order to assume that this form of worship if it came from Britain must have reached these shores before the Mound Builders in order to have spread over such a wide expanse of territory here.

Another interesting query is, up to what period of time were these people here? The time cannot be so closely approximated, but have reasons for thinking that it reached up to a comparatively modern period. That the Indians were much inclined to favor this form of Sun Worship, and that they did really use forms that belong both to the Mound

Builders and the Druids is plainly evident. That they had a great many symbols that belonged to the Druids that has come down to the days of our fathers is also evident. It is proof also that this form of Sun Worship has come close down to our own times. The fact that this religious faith has been so recent here and so long obsolete in Europe, goes far to confirm the view that this form of Sun Worship came at one time from Britain.

From whence came the "Wild Brothers," has been often asked? The most plausible theory is, that they came from the far North-west having crossed over from Asia and worked their way steadily towards the South-east in the course of the centuries. They no doubt, as they worked their way southward and mingled with other nations, that they underwent very important changes in their religious philosophy, which finally produced a race of men combining different nationalities and coming down more or less to our own times.

Thus we have seen that there has been three different emigrations from three different sources that has reached our shores.

There is yet another form of ancient worship here which takes on a form of Sun Worship and is represented by Idols made of metal, clay, wood and stone. This phase of our study we have just reached and are now studying. We do not as yet feel confidence enough to venture a decided conclusion. We are in hopes however, to find something of deep interest in this new field of our resources.


How often have we wished that these granite boulders could for a season be gifted with speech and sight and could tell us what it had seen and heard. How interesting would

be that narrative, and how delighted we should be to hear its recital. How often have we regretted that these boulders have been doomed to perpetual silence. What a pleasure it was to us therefore, to find that man had laid a charge upon them and that they have remained ever faithful to that charge. That race of men who gave that charge have long since slumbered on the bosom of mother Earth. Even their nation has perished and even the one that succeeded them has laid down the burden of life with them. Still that place sacred so long ago in the past yet remains a faithful witness of their handiwork.

Thus we have briefly reviewed our subject. We assure our reader there is more here in Rhode Island that needs a study than people are generally aware of and we believe such a study should be undertaken. We have proposed to ourself to study the subject at every opportunity and could this subject be thoroughly investigated as it deserves to be, it would give great satisfaction to the investigator in a field not as yet explored, but to him whose inquiring mind turns to the history of the generations of men who years before the Pilgrims crossed the sea to find a home in the wilderness or the lone preacher who rode his ox to Attleboro Gore to escape from the "Lord Brethren" as he had escaped from the "Lord Bishops," or the apostles of civil and religious liberty among them, the discussion is full of grandeur and especially so if opens to us the question as to whether the land dedicated by Williams to religious freedom of worship had not for centuries been the great battle ground of control for the supremacy of creed and faith and symbol.

PROVIDENCE IN 1810 AND LATER.

By Henry A. Howland.

 SEVENTY seven years seems to the young a long time, but to some of us who can look back through as many years the time seems very, very short. It is however, nearly one third of the time from the first settlement of Providence. To the few who remember as far back, what I may relate I think may be interesting as we elderly ones love to dwell on the past in conversation.

To the younger generation it may be a satisfaction to learn of the past and to note the change in the part of the city of which I shall mainly speak.

Seventy seven years, and I may say eighty-one years and later, the vicinity of Weybosset street was the scene of my earliest years. Butler's wharf (now Hay street), was on the west side of it. The estate of Colonel Zephaniab Andrews my maternal grand-father was adjoining where in 1806 I became an inhabitant of the town of Providence. There was on the lot his mansion house, a two story house next above, and on the front a one story shop and a large store house and garden below the mansion. His estate ran to the channel, but was not built off to it as was Butler's.

At the foot of his garden there were stone steps that led down to the water, where the north side of Pine street now is. From these steps my first fishing was done for mummachogs with a pin hook, and from there also my older brother when about six years of age made his first voyage on the water in a wash tub, sailing out to the channel and floating with the tide up and under the bridge to the cove. He afterwards

was a sea captain and sailed all over the world and till o'd age. Long Wharf (now Custom street), called so probably because it was the longest when first built, as Butler's and Peck's were much longer now. These wharves all extended to the channel, the river flowing on each side of them and to the north side of Pine street. Access from one wharf to another was by passing up and down from Weybosset street. The wharves on the east side were separated in the same way.

There was then no South Water street extending the whole length of the river, no Dyer street on the West Side, no Pine street open but little below Richmond street, Eddy street was only on Eddy's Point where the main business was ship building. The largest ship yard was where the steam cotton mill now stands. All the area between the Steam mill, Richmond street and the northerly side of Pine street, was covered by the tide water and to go to Eddy's Point from Weybosset bridge, we had to go up to Richmond street and down that street, or take a boat and sail to the Point. All the ship builders and others were the owners of boats and would skull or row across to Market Square to get supplies, as that was the only market for meats and country produce. Dorrance street was then only from Weybosset street to the river, its only name that we knew was Muddy Dock. In the centre of it the tide flowed and a bridge was over the side-walk with an iron rail on each side under which the surface water ran from the street.

There was a side-walk on the west side of the dock built up two feet or more on a level with the Peck estate. Lewis Peck the owner, had built on the upper and lower corners two good brick houses, the later was built about 1810 and the small boy lives to remember that he gathered shavings when the house was being built. On that good wide side

walk I had the honor of being a militiaman. as all the boys did when eighteen years of age. We were formed in a line on that walk, reviewed and examined to satisfy the superiors that our equipments were all right, and then the Muddy Dock Rangers would be led on a grand march to join the general muster.

That militia system was ridiculed down after a few years and another instituted in which both officers and men seemed to feel pride and pleasure in uniting.

Muddy Dock did not look in the old days as if it would be ever graced and flanked by a seven storied Hotel costing about a million of dollars. The popular Opera House and the handsome spacious Masonic building. Where the latter building stands there was a neck of land built upon the shore on which was erected the Second Baptist Church, (now the Central). There was a stone wall back of the lot the whole width of it, against which the tide flowed. On the side of it to about the centre of what is now Eddy street, the tide covered a gently sloping sandy shore where in the then pure river water, the rite of baptism by immersion was observed. Several times in my youth I stood there with the gathered company looking on wonderingly, as the minister with the candidate slowly walked out to a proper depth of water, then witnessed the plunge, the momentary strangling agitation of the candidate and the calm satisfied walk up to the shore welcomed by the singing of appropriate hymns. Sometimes the ice would have to be cut away for this service. One time off this shore in the winter, there was an immersion scene without the aid of clergy, where;

“ The ice was thin and we all fell in.”

A dozen of us boys were running what we called bendoes and bendolas. We were in a line holding each by the hand and

running one way and back with the ice bending in waves as we ran, till suddenly the trough of a wave gave way and twelve boys were struggling in the icy water. Help came from the blacksmiths shop of Moses Haskell near the shore and we were all saved to run again. Two were saved however, by resuscitation. It is remarkable in view of the changes in that vicinity, that the same shop is yet there with the same business pursued in it.

The houses on Weybosset and Westminster streets were mainly occupied by families where the boys lived who made up the companionship in school, in rowing, fishing, ball playing, swimming &c.; the latter without fear of police or any other objection. We would jump from the wharf, swim across the river, climb up the side of a vessel there, then jump or dive to the water, swim back, then quickly dress, not having any wet bathing suit to dispose of.

Boys had privileges in the river and in the ten thousand town, which the one hundred and twenty-five thousand city denies them; but our youth have a rich compensation in the better order which they learn to respect, and especially in our schools which are made much more attractive, and the pupils acquire a better start in education at nine years of age than the youth seventy years ago did at fourteen. Then all the public school teachers were men, sometimes drinking men, one, some of the boys knew kept his bottle under his desk. There was no word against drink, only its excess. The discipline in the schools was harsh. The ferule and rattan were used for small faults; now, these are seldom used and the teacher who governs successfully without the rod stands the highest. then, the school was ungraded; all ages in one large room; now, each grade is in a separate room. Then, the school was a dreaded place and truency was very frequent;

now, it is seldom with any but such as have no good training at home. Then, there were no lady teachers in the public schools; now, they are mainly such, educated for the work, with all the sympathies and kindly feelings of mothers and sisters, with thoughts for their pupils:

“That bless the heart, at once its teacher and its joy,
As mothers bless with their caress,
Lessons of truth and gentleness
And virtue for the listening boy.”

Then, the time of the principal and his assistant was much taken up in mending pens; Goose quills instead of the steel pen now in use.

The hard discipline in the schools in those years was in keeping with the legal punishments for culprits. At the Old Brick school house on Meeting street, we could look out on the Court House Parade with its row of popular trees on each side of the walk, and see when the criminal was tied to one of those trees and whipped on the bare back by the sheriff. When out of school we could see another culprit at the parade up high on the pillory with his head and hands fastened between the boards, his face towards the street, where he had to stand a certain time and hear the jeering of the unfeeling among the crowd in the street. Then came the cropping and branding, which was the cutting off a piece of the ear and branding a letter with a hot iron on the cheek. These were the penalties for certain crimes; barbarous as they were. Much of the preaching in those days was a threatening of far more enduring and torturing elements to be suffered for far less criminality.

The men best fitted for teachers, taught but a little while and then found other occupation. Two I remember became ministers and continued in that vocation till old age and death,

each satisfying large and influential societies all through their lives. One became a lawyer and lived away from the town.

At that time the school teacher was not encouraged by pay nor respect for his business; now, our men teachers are accomplished gentlemen, well trained and continue to train themselves for a life business, commanding more adequate pay; yet not what some of them could receive with their talents and labor in some other position. They have however, the satisfaction to feel that their vocation is highly honored by our citizens, who know that theirs is the one great work for our country's future freedom and prosperity.

In 1810, there were but few stores on Weybosset Broad or Westminster streets. Broad ran to the junction of High and Pawtuxet streets. Pawtuxet street was the main road to that place. It is now the continuation of Broad street.

All the shops for dry goods were on the west side of North Main street, which was known as Cheapside. About 1820, the first lower part of a dwelling house on Westminster street was altered for the sale of dry goods, and occupied by Capt. William Russell, who was a favored dealer in that business for many years. Capt. Russell was followed by others in the same business till old Cheapside was deserted by its noted trade and name. Now spacious blocks of buildings for business purposes, take the place of the family residences and the yearly rent would more than purchase all the estate in 1810.

The family dwellings, on Broad and Weybosset streets, have also mainly been given up for business purposes. Large blocks built of stone and brick now cover the sites of the former homes and gardens; gardens where the good mothers had cultivated herbs for seasoning and medical purposes,

which were then much valued. The grape vines, apples, pears, peach and plum trees that the boys enjoyed at each others homes are long since gone with the fathers and mothers and their habitations.

We boys knew no other names for these streets but Front street and Back street. Orange street ran then only from Front to Back streets and was called Hardin's Lane after Walker Hardin, who owned the estate on the corner where the Theatre Comique now stands. His carpenter shop was back of the house on the Lane. The next street above we called Low's Lane. Charles Low, then a wholesale grocer owned the corner lot where William H Fenner and Co. now are, and lived there in a good two story house of wood.

Mr. Low's heirs I believe still own the estate. Middle street, between the two lanes was called Cat Alley, and was then conspicuous for mud and dirt and the one story house of Marm Leatherbee whose ponderous presence excited the attention of all the boys. North and South Main streets, we only knew as up town and down town.

About the time of the war of 1812, the boys were quite beligerant. The Back-streeters and the Front-streeters, had their encounters in the lanes above spoken of with sticks and stones. Some were wounded, none killed. One carried a mark of a wound over his eye to old age and death. The war spirit stirred up the boys in the other states. William Lloyd Garrison whose manhood life was a moral warfare against slavery, was born in Newburyport; and in the story of his life it is stated that there were numerous conflicts between the "South end boys and the North enders."

The boys there were like our town boys in loving to lick molasses. "It was a favorite pastime with the boys of his

town to swim from one wharf to another adjacent, where vessels from the West Indies discharged their freight of molasses. and there to indulge in stolen sweetness extracted by a smooth stick inserted through the bung hole. When detected and chased, they would plunge into the water and escape to the wharf on which they had left their clothes. In this way they became connoisseurs of the different grades of molasses and fastidious in their selection of the hogshead to be tested."

With us Long Wharf was the most frequented place to "Lap molasses," and when driven away we would soon gather again like flies when the disturbance had quieted. Their was in our testing of the various sweets in the hogsheads one great satisfaction to the grocer who came to buy, as he found the best in the cask dripped over the most from the boys sticks.

A private school for children was kept by marm Garner as she was called. Her name was Ann Gardiner. She taught, many years previous to 1810, as the fathers and mothers of her pupils at that time who were residents of the vicinity, had also been her pupils in their childhood.

I have bills for two quarters tuition when four and five years of age; 1810 and 1811. The school-room was in the upper part of a two story building on the corner of Orange street. In the lower part, a grocery store was kept by a Mr. William Field.

It happened that this shop became my place of business in 1827, and where I continued 32 years, then vacated as Mr. Chester Pratt had obtained a lease of the site for his brick building, the upper part of which was known as Pratt's Hall.

Marm Low succeeded the former teacher and taught there many years. After she vacated the rooms were mine for storing goods. In memory of their childhoods school-room many of my age and older men called to look at it, and there saw the same old closet in the corner of the room where they had been closeted for discipline, and when hungry the little boys found the numerous pies and gingerbread.

Where the Arcade now stands on the west half of the south end, Benjamin and Charles Dyer had a brick building used by them as a drug and medicine store. The east half of the Arcade lot was a part of the Butler estate, with the family residence in the rear. The house was a very common two story building of wood with a large yard in which one or more cows were kept when home at night from the pasture, and the spare milk was sold to the neighbors. Many families owned cows then which were driven off to not far distant pastures and returned at night.

In the Butler family there was a former slave woman retained for help after slavery was unlawful in the State. Temp Butler as ~~she was~~ called, was a very kind old woman that every body liked. She dealt out the milk to the boys and girls that called for it, and Temp was noted for always giving good measure.

Sarah Butler Duncan, who became heir to the great estate was then a little girl frequently seen by us about the house and yard. William and Stephen W. her brothers and their uncle Cyrus were all of the family I remember. Stephen was a very handsome genial lad, five years my senior. He died in 1817, aged 16 years. William died in 1829 in his fortieth year. Cyrus their uncle died in 1848, aged 82 years. Thus leaving Sarah the only remaining member of the family to inherit the great estate accumulated by her grand-father,

her own father Samuel Butler, and largely added to by her uncle Cyrus in his long life of rigid economy and devotion to business.

The city is now much benefited by the large substantial blocks built by the estate for business purposes, making a large amount of taxable property.

Whitman's Block, at the junction of Weybosset and Westminster streets, was a noted feature as a building in my earlier years. It was one of the great things of the day, and was talked about all over the town and state as the Arcade building was twenty or more years later. With the Turks Head on a post as high as a lamp post, the junction became known by that name and is still retained after seventy years of its absence. The history of that head after it was floated away by the flood of 1815, was very interesting as given in a paper read by Mrs. H. A. Horton, before the R. I. Vet. Citizens Historical Ass'n last winter. Whitman's Block was used for family tenements with the exception of one store at its junction. The lower story is now much improved by nice fronts for offices and shops which in its early structure would have made it a greater wonder. If any one doubts the high opinion held of the building at that time, I refer such to an advertisement in the Providence Gazette of May 25, 1811, for the sale of the McNeal estate, described as "Situated on Westminster street, five doors west of the Exchange Bank and opposite the elegant Block of Brick Buildings erected and owned by Mr. Jacob Whitman."

In conclusion I will say that while we who lived in the long ago feel a satisfaction and pride in the material prosperity of our City, with its large solid business blocks, and its really elegant public buildings finished in architectural beauty; yet our memories fondly cling to the scenes of our

childhood and youth, where in the humble dwellings lived the families of kindred and friends.

A shadow comes over the mind as we dwell on these reminiscences, and think that the older ones have long since gone; and those of early youth with us, with whom we met at play and school, have one by one passed with the years; till we know but five or six that remain. We have had to learn that as time passes the fondest and dearest leave us, and but for new interests and hopes that come to us life would be desolate. The discipline of life teaches us to prize and enjoy that which remains, and drive away the minds shadows. Heaven is here and now, if we will have it within us; Thrackcray wrote to a friend saying:

“I don't know about the unseen world; the use of the seen world is the right thing I'm sure. It is just as much Gods world and creation as the kingdom of Heaven with all its angels. Let us turn Gods today to its best use, as well as any other part of the time he gives us.”

Then when the summons come to depart to the unseen we shall be ready.

Read before the R. I. Vet. Cit. His. Ass'n, Sept. 13, 1887.

Liberty Papers. — In 1845, there were in this state two Liberty or Anti-Slavery papers, “The Liberty Advocate,” published at Woonsocket and the “Rhode Island Liberty Pioneer,” published in Providence; but it has not come to my knowledge that any copies of these papers have been preserved.

S. H. Allen.

A HISTORY OF THE NORTH BRANCH
OF THE PAWTUXET VALLEY.

By Hon. William B. Spencer.

PREVIOUS to 1673 the lands in the western part of the town of Warwick were held in common by the proprietors and in this year a division was made and 2100 Acres was assigned to John Greene, senior; Richard Carder; John Warner; Benjamin Barton and Henry Townsend, as their portion of the undivided lands extending from the Meshanticut brook (which empties into the Pawtuxet river between the Railroad Bridges of the New York and New England Railroad and the Pawtuxet Valley Railroad below Natick). Westerly bounding southerly on the north branch of the Pawtuxet river; northetly on the north line of Warwick grand purchase extending as far west as was necessary to comprise 2100 Acres and was described as lying and being in that part of the town of Warwick called Natick. At that time the town of Warwick extended westerly to the east line of the state of Connecticut.

The town of Coventry was set off from the town of Warwick by act of the General Assembly August 3, 1741 containing sixty and three fifths square miles within its territory and leaving forty three and one tenth square miles in the town of Warwick. The towns of Warwick, Coventry, East Greenwich and West Greenwich at this time were in the County of Providence, but were by act of the General Assembly passed in June, 1750, incorporated into a County, to be called the County of Kent.

These lands that were assigned to John Green, senior, Richard Carder, John Warner, Benjamin Barton and Henry Townsend, being bounded by the north branch of the Pawtuxet River did not give them the control of the river and water power.

The Pawtuxet River at this period flowed on with few obstructions. Where Natick village is now located William Holden owned a grist mill previous to 1771. Where the Lip-pitt mills now stands Joseph Edmons had a grist mill and saw mill in 1737. No further obstructions to the flow of the water of the north branch of the Pawtuxet river were encountered until arriving at Hope Furnance where the Hope village now is. At this place cannon were cast for use in the revolutionary war and were tested before being sent from the furnance. I have heard when a boy old people say that when testing the cannon, they would fire the balls into a hill and at one time the ball met some obstruction and bounded over the hill and continued its course. A man seeing the ball rolling along put up his foot to stop it, when it took off his foot and continued on its course.

Before the erection of the dams and building the factories the fish would come up the river south of where the Clyde Bleachery now is, a little below the bridge on the south side of the river was a large rock. The water striking this rock caused a large hole to be made in the bed of the river and made a fine place to catch fish. Salmon, shad and other fish were caught and it was called the "Salmon Hole." After the dams were built it prevented the fish coming up. It was said that a young man was bound to a carpenter to learn the trade in 1809 and it was stipulated in the articles of his apprenticeship that he should not be fed more than three times a week on salmon.

In 1807, a company was formed consisting of Adams & Lothrop, Capt. William Potter, and Charles Potter, of Providence; Christopher and William Rhodes of Pawtuxet. Jonathan Ellis of Warwick; Perez Peck, Peter Cushman, John White and Joseph Hines, for the purpose of building a Cotton Factory at Natick.

In the autumn a mill was built about 80 feet long and was started with two throstle frames of 84 spindles each and two mules of 200 spindles each. The machinery was driven by a tub wheel made of wood.

The north and south branches of the Pawtuxet river unite above Natick and this privilege has the benefit of both streams. On the south branch just above the union with the north branch in 1812, Stephen Harris and Sylvester Knight bought 40 acres of land and half a house and erected a factory two stories high, sixty five feet long and commenced manufacturing with four throstle frames and two mules and associated with them James Greene, Resolved Slack and Resolved Waterman. The company was known as the Greene Manufacturing Company, but the village was known as the "Frozen Point," or as generally called "Frozen Pint."

There are several traditions about how this name became attached to the village. It was built on a point of land between the north and south branches of the Pawtuxet River a little above where they came together; therefore the point was very appropriate, but the frozen part of the name has various traditions, one of which is that being built in a very cold section of country there being a very high hill on the opposite side of the river that prevented the sun shining upon it in the early part of the day and that frost was seen in the village every month in the year. Another was that among

the mechanics who worked in building the first mill was one who purchased a quantity of the spirits that sometimes exhilarates and having more than was consumed on that day filled a pint bottle with it and hid it for future use. The next day on obtaining it, he found the liquid frozen solid. On exhibiting it to his companions they designated it as the "Frozen Pint," which finally became attached to the village, although the manufacturing firm was known as the "Greene Manufacturing Company," but the village continued to be known by the name "Frozen Point or pint," until 1852 when the Providence Hartford and Fishkill Railroad was located through this village. Then the name was changed to "River Point," and adopted by the Railroad Company as the name of their station at this place and the village has since borne that name.

The extensive range of hills on the east side of the river extending southerly from the junction of the two streams nearly to Centreville, from its top affords a splendid view of the surrounding country. What was formerly the New London Turnpike passes over this hill and affords easy access to its height from which to the east may be seen a portion of Old Warwick, Rocky Point and the surrounding places.

Nearer by, the village of Arctic with its rows of tenement houses and its extensive and substantial factory building built of stone may be seen. South from this hill is seen the villages of Centreville and Crompton. North Westerly on the North branch of the Pawtuxet lies the village of Clyde (print works), erected in 1828 by the Lippitt Manufacturing Company and leased to Simon Henry Greene and Edward Pike for a bleachery. In 1831 Greene and Pike purchased the estate and have made many improvements and additions thereto. Edward Pike died in 1842. Simon Henry Greene in

1845 purchased the interest in the estate that belonged to Mr. Pike's heirs and associated with him his four sons continued the business under the name of S. H. Greene & Sons. S. H. Greens died April 26, 1885. His Sons continue the business.

On the north side of the North Branch of the river nearly opposite the railroad station at River Point is a lot of land covered with rocks. On the west part of this lot the land running from the river some hundred feet is nearly level and but a few feet higher than the river when the rocks rise abruptly higher than the tops of the trees standing near the river. The land continues to rise for a considerable distance to the north. These rocks extend some distance easterly where there is a gorge through which a stream of water in the winter comes rushing down to the river. Extending further east beyond this stream of water the rocks slope from the river to the top of the hill. This place is known as the "Horse Pound." Tradition is that the Indians drove wild horses into this place to capture them.

The next above on the North Branch is the Lippitt village which was known in 1737 as Edmond's Mills. Joseph Edmonds had a saw mill and grist mill at this place which afterwards was owned by Charles Atwood and in 1809 by his son Nehemiah Atwood, who sold November 11, 1809, to Christopher Lippitt of Cranston, Charles Lippitt brother of Christopher, Benjamin Aborn, George Jackson, and Amasa and William H. Mason of Providence, who had formed a Partnership under the name of the Lippitt Manufacturing Company, with a Capital of \$ 40,000. A piece of land with the privilege of drawing water from said Atwood's mill pond above the saw mill sufficient to carry 2,000 spindles by water frames also for the use of a forge or trip hammer works, which works

were not built. The Lippitt Company afterwards bought the Grist Mill and became the owners of the whole water power which had a head and fall of about 17 feet. Caleb Atwood, a brother of Nehemiah, owned a tan yard between his house and the trench that conveyed the water to the saw mill and the grist mill from which he obtained the water for his tan vats. He ground the bark on this lot with a flat stone some 4 or 5 feet in diameter and about one foot thick, having a hole through the centre, through which a wooden shaft was put. One end of this shaft was made fast to a post set in the ground in the centre of a circle. To the other end of this shaft a horse was attached, the stone standing on the edge and the horse walking around in a circle turned the stone the bark being placed in this circle on the ground or bed prepared for it became broken into small pieces and made ready for use.

The next water privilege up the stream was also owned by Nehemiah Atwood who sold it August 16th, 1809, to Daniel Baker, William Baker, Samuel Baker and William Harrison of Warwick; Reuben Whitman of Coventry, Elisha Williams and John S. Williams, of Cranston; who had resolved themselves into a company for the purpose of carrying on the manufacturing of Cotton and assumed the name of the "Roger Williams Manufacturing Company."

This purchase comprised about eight acres of land lying on the north side of the river, which was then an orchard of fruit trees. It became necessary in order to build a dam across the river to obtain a piece of land belonging to Anthony A. Rice, who being disposed to encourage the building a factory gave them the privilege to butt their dam on his land without any pay. In 1810, a factory building was erected, a dam was built, across the river giving them about 19 feet head and

fall and they commenced manufacturing cotton yarn and continued until May 1821, when the factory was consumed by fire. It was reported that the books of the Company were in such shape at the time the factory was burned, that the financial condition of the Company could not be ascertained, but the burning of the factory, together with the books settled it without any further trouble. •

The Roger Williams Manufacturing Company, was composed of men of little experience in manufacturing and of small means. The loss occasioned by the burning of their mill, left them unprepared to rebuild the factory and in March 1822, they sold the estate and water privilege to Timothy Greene, Samuel Greene and Benjamin C. Harris who assumed the name of the "Phenix Company," and rebuilt the factory building in 1823 and in 1825 built another factory between this factory and the dam. The property changed owners several times and now belongs to the Hope Company. These mills were situated in the valley between two hills whose tops overlook the buildings in the village. The hills on the south side of the river rising abruptly from the river some hundred feet, then a more gradual rise until it attains some two hundred feet in height, spreads over a level plain and then descends to the south.

On the top of this hill is "Greenwood Cemetary," containing twelve acres of land, laid out by a citizen of Phenix in 1858 and enclosed by a substantial wall and prepared for burial purposes. Within the enclosure is a receiving Tomb. Many of the citizens avail themselves of this quiet spot for the interment of relatives and friends. Up to August 1887, ten hundred and eighty seven have been buried within this enclosure. The view from this hill is quite extensive looking easterly can be seen Fall River, Bristol Warren and various

other places nearer. Between this Cemetary and the river on the west side of the highway is the old burying ground of the Levalley family who formerly owned the land from the river southerly extending over the hill. Nearer the river on the east side of the highway on the farm formerly owned by Anthony A. Rice, is another graveyard where lie buried with himself and family many of his descendents.

On the north side of the river in Phenix east of Pleasant street a graveyard enclosed with a wall is a burial place of Charles Atwood, a former owner of the land in this vicinity, and further east on the hill lies buried Henry Potter, wife and family, all enclosed with a wall and within the enclosure is erected a monument to Dr. John McGregor, who married a grand-daughter of Henry Potter. Dr. McGregor was a practicing physician, who resided in this vicinity a number of years and after the death of his wife removed to Connecticut where he again married. At the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, he went as surgeon, was captured and imprisoned, afterwards exchanged and came to Providence broken down in health. While riding along Dyer street his horse became frightened by the cars and he was thrownd out, and the cars passed over his arm crushing it, and he soon after died and was buried beside his wife in Phenix.

Passing a little further east is an enclosure within which lies buried Caleb Atwood, son of Charles Atwood, and his descendents and their families.

Below the Lippitt factory, on the south side of where the river now runs, was an old burying place long neglected, the graves marked only by rough stones. In 1822, the Lippitt Company turned the stream of the river from its former bed to the base of the hill on whose top were buried some of the old inhabitants of this vicinity. Soon after the course of the

river was changed, it began to wash away a portion of this hill and soon exposed the ends of the coffins to view. Some of them were moved and buried further from the edge of the hill. It was reported that in time of a freshet, some of the coffins were washed out and carried down the river. This hill continued being washed away until it formed a sufficient slope to prevent any further encroachment and is now grown over with bushes.

Near River Point, where S. Colvin and Company's Machine shop stands, was an old burying ground long neglected without any enclosure and on the opposite side of the river a little north of the Clyde Print Works is another old burying place that has been neglected. Most of the bodies that were buried in this place have been removed to other places and but few graves are now remaining there. To the north-west of what is known as Wakefield hill, in the woods is the old Atwood burying place, where Nehemiah Atwood and descendants were buried. No fence or wall surrounds it, cattle pass over it and trees and bushes hide the graves from view. Near by is another spot enclosed with a stone wall and within its enclosure were buried Rufus Wakefield, his wife and four children. His wife was the daughter of Nehemiah Atwood.

Passing a little further north-west on the same farm another graveyard that is neglected can be found.

There are many other old graveyards that might be mentioned.

North of the village of Phenix is a piece of wood-land in which are many rocks. Some of them are quite high and on one side rise abruptly and were known by the name of the "Goat Rocks."

Above the Roger Williams village, Caleb Atwood and Sons in 1813, built a small two story stone factory. They owned

the land on the north side of the river, but none on the south side, therefore they could not build their dam across the river and built it half way across extending it up the river and run their factory with half a dam until 1821, when they bought of Esek Edmonds for the sum of twelve dollars the right to butt their dam on the south side of the river and a dam that extended across the river was built. This factory for some cause was called the "Dumpling Mould," which was offensive to Mr. Atwood.

After the dam was built across the river it flowed the water back on the wheel of the factory above when the river was high, especially when ice accumulated on the dam. About the year 1841, a number of men were employed one Saturday afternoon cutting the ice from the dam. Among them was John Burton who was talking about the possibility of their going over the dam, when he approached the edge of the ice and fell into the water and was carried over the dam and was drowned. His body was not found until the next afternoon.

In May 1841, the Harris Manufacturing Company became the owners of this property. The dam was removed and the building torn down, the stone being used in the foundation of a machine shop occupied by Levalley Lanphear & Co.

The next water privilege up the stream, was bought by Elisha Harris in 1821, who built a dam across the river having a fall about 21 feet, and some distance below the dam, he erected a small factory building, and commenced the manufacturing of Cotton Sheetings of good quality which had a ready sale. Several additions have been built to the first mill.

In 1851, Mr. Harris built a large stone factory further down and some distance below the first mill, taking the water from



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NARRAGANSETT
Historical Register

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
THE ANTIQUITIES, GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL
MATTER ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY
OF THE

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

A HISTORICAL MAGAZINE FOR THE PEOPLE

*A record of : casures and of men,
For twelve full score years and ten.*

JAMES N. ARNOLD, EDITOR

PUBLISHED BY
THE NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

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In 1851, Mr. Harris built a large stone factory further down and some distance below the first mill, taking the water from

the same pond above the first mill, and conveying it across the highway to the mill and again returning the water below the mill to the river. The village is known as "Harrisville in Coventry."

The next water privilege further up the river having a fall of about 23 feet, was purchased April 3, 1809, by James De Wolf of Bristol, Dr. Caleb Fiske of Scituate and his son Philip W. Fiske and Asher Robbins, and a factory building was erected on the south side of the river, in the town of Coventry and several dwelling houses one of them standing so near the town of Scituate, that the water from the roof on one side of the house standing in Coventry, would fall into the town of Scituate. On the north side of the river, which is in the town of Cranston, several dwelling houses were built, one larger than the others for the superintendent of the factory, and a saw mill was built and run several years when it gave place for a bleachery that was occupied by William M. Cooke, until it was consumed by fire and was not rebuilt, The water for the use of the bleachery was conveyed from a spring a long distance through wooden logs. The village was called "Arkwright," in honor of the inventor of the spinning mule. Mr. DeWolf had the supplies for the mill brought to Apponaug in a sloop. He built a building at Apponaug above where the railroad crosses, to store the goods in, and they were carried from there to Arkwright by teams.

After continuing the business a few years, James DeWolf became the owner of all the estate and Dr. Fiske and his son Philip in 1812, built a mill on the next privilege further up the river having a fall of the stream about 14 feet, and called the village "Fiskeville," which name it now bears.

Continuing further up the river Charles Jackson bought

the next water privilege having a fall of about 14 feet, and built a factory and called the village "Jackson's," and it continues to be designated by that name.

Next above this is "Hope," village having a fall of about 28 feet. The furnace heretofore spoken of, has long since given place to a large stone cotton mill built from stone brought from a ledge several miles distant called the "Nipmuck," ledge.

The stone with which the house on the corner of Broad and Claverick streets in this city were built, came from this ledge. We have now arrived to the last mill privilege on the North Branch of the Pawtuxet. After extending several miles from Hope village, it extends its branches in various directions from which it receives its supply.

From Clyde Print Works, the first privilege on the North Branch of the Pawtuxet, are eight manufacturing establishments including the Clyde and the Hope, having a combined fall of 150 feet in a distance of about three miles. The pond of each factory flows back to its neighbor above, and the villages having the houses located in such manner that it is difficult for a stranger to determine where one village leaves off and the next begins.

At the time of which we write, the only public conveyance from these villages to Providence, was by stage. As early as 1828, George Scott ran a stage from Fiskeville village, passing through Arkwright, Harrisville, Phenix and Lippitt villages, thence over Natick hill to the New London Turnpike and following the Pike to Providence. After the highway was laid out from Lippitt village to Frozen Point and continued through that village to the New London Turnpike. Scott's stage was run through those villages several years, then a stage was run to Apponaug connecting with the Ston-

ington Rail-road, and the stage no longer run to Providence. This continued to run to Apponaug until the Providence Hartford and Fishkill Railroad was opened for travel, when, an Omnibus was run from Hope village connecting with the Railroad at River Point.

The Pawtuxet Valley Railroad was built in 1874 from Hope village to River Point, connecting with the New York and New England Railroad, and cars commenced running August 5, 1874, and there was no further use for the Omnibus. The cars run no further than River Point. Passengers had to change cars at that place. This continued for five years when the Pawtuxet Valley Railroad was extended from River Point, passing near Natick, Pontiac and State Farm, connecting with the Stonington Railroad at Auburn Station. The road is leased to the New York, Providence and Boston Railroad Company, who run the cars from Providence to Hope without any change of cars.

The Pawtuxet River along its course, and its many spreading branches is attended with the hum of machinery until after leaving Pontiac when it passes on until arrested at Pettaconsett pumping Station, where a portion of its water is drawn away to meet the wants of the citizens of the City of Providence.

The following lines were published in the Providence Journal, August 1875.

PAWTUXET.

River of beauty that peacefully flows,
Winding its bright way through forest and mead,
Turns from its shadows of dreary repose,
Answers the call of humanity's need.

Leaving the valley of sunlight and calm,
 Home of the wild flower and haunt of the bird,
 Bearing to thirsty lips coolness and balm,
 Swift to the dusty town comes at our word.

Health for the drooping and comfort for all,
 Let our glad thanks for thee echo again,
 River of bounty that flows at our call,
 Bear on thy bosom our grateful refrain.

Soft flowing river, yet mighty in power,
 Guarding our homes from destruction and death,
 Rising in calmness through terrors dark hour,
 Quenching in silence the fire demons breath.

Joyful our welcome, oh glorious river,
 Hushed be all discord, forgotten all strife,
 Strong in thy purity flow on forever,
 Emblem so bright of the river of life.

Boston June 23, 1888.

Mr. Editor:

I send you the following item from
 "The Boston Gazette," February 12, 1739, which may interest some of your readers.

Respectfully Yours.

Samuel A. Greene.

Newport, Feb. 9. Mrs. Mary Hazard Widow of Mr. Robert Hazard of South Kingston, and Grand Mother to the deceased George Hazard, Esq. late Deputy Governor of Rhode Island, departed this life the 28th day of January last, in the Hundredth Year of her Age, who was decently interr'd the Wednesday following. She had 500 Children, Grand Children and Great Grand Children, and left behind her now living Two Hundred and five of the aforesaid number; She was accounted a very useful Gentlewoman both to Poor and Rich on many accounts, and particularly amongst Sick Persons for her Skill & Judgment, which she did Gratis.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

Squantum. 1. Among the Naumkeag Indians of Massachusetts, their evil spirit.

"For their religion they do worship two Gods. The good God they call Tantum; and their evil God, whom they fear, they call *Squantum*. Annals of Salem, 2nd, ed. Vol. I, p. 26.

2. The name of a species of fun known to the Nantucket folks, which is thus described by the New York Mirror. A party of ladies and gentlemen go to one of the famous watering-places of resort where they fish, dig clams, talk, laugh, sing, dance, play, bathe, sail, eat, and have a general "good time." The food generally consists of chowder, baked clams, and fun. No one is admitted to the sacred circle who will take offence at a joke, and every one is expected to do his and her part towards creating a general laugh. Any man who speaks of business affairs (excepting matrimony), is immediately reprov'd, and on a second offence publicly chastised. Care is thrown to the wind, politics discarded, war ignored, pride humbled, stations levelled, wealth scorned, virtue exalted, and — this is *squantum*. Probably from Indian place-names, as one in or near Quincy, Mass.

"I wish to all-fired smash I was at home, doin' chores about house, or hazin' round with Charity Baker and the rest of the gals at a *squantum*." Wise, Tales of the Marines.

In Rhode Island is a "Squantum Club," consisting of several hundred members, which has several buildings on a small island in Narragansett Bay, two miles from Providence, where an excellent table is served. The shell fish for which these waters are justly celebrated, are here served in every variety. Large parties from New York, Boston and other New England cities, are frequently entertained here during the summer.

Pomham, was sachem of Shawomet. He disputed the deed given by Miantonomi to Samuel Gorton and appealed to Massachusetts for protection. At the outbreak of Philip's war, he sided with Philip and fought in his service. In the battle at the Great Falls on the Connecticut, May 19, 1676; he was conspicuous and fought bravely. He was a man of vast physical powers. After he had been severely wounded and could not stand on his feet, he was fortunate to get hold of a soldier who came close to him and would have killed him outright had he not been promptly rescued. Pomham was finally captured in Dedham woods July 25, 1676, after being as above stated severely wounded and died on the field a few hours afterwards.

Pomham's son, a fine looking youth was captured with his father by the English, and afterwards put to death on account of his paternity, it being thought dangerous to let live a son of so warlike a father.

Origin of Narragansett. Few Indian words have been spelt in more ways than this. From the nature of the Indian Language, it is evident that no *r* should be used in it. Roger Williams called it Nahigonsick and Nantigansick, Gookin Nehegansitt, Callender Nantygansiks. In Winslow's Good News from New England, it is written Nanohigganset, and Nanhigganset. In Judge Johnson's life of Gen Green we read. These are but the few permutations without the *r* and those with it are still more numerous.

The meaning of the word is still more uncertain. Madam Knight in her Journal, pages 22, 23, says at a place where she happened to put up for a night in that country, she heard some of the "town topers" disputing about the word *Narragansett*. One said it was so named by Indians because there

grew a brier there of prodigious height and bigness who quoted an Indian of so barbarous a name for his author that she could not write it. Another said it meant a celebrated spring which was very cold in summer, and as hot as could be imagined in the winter. Drake's Book of the Indians, page 87.

Roger Williams makes affidavit and says, "I also profess, that being inquisitive of what root the title or denomination Nahiganset should come, I heard that Nahiganset was so named from a little island between Puttisqueomsett and Musquomacuk on the sea and fresh-water side. I went on purpose to see it, and about the place called Sugar Loaf Hill, I saw it, and was within a pole of it, but could not learn why it was call Nahiganset." Potter's His, of Narr., page 4, 13.

Mr. Trumbull quotes Williams as above and says, "To which I have nothing to add." Dexter's Church, page 1, 13.

Narragansett is from Nanrantsouack and means a *carrying place*. Norridgewack is also a corruption of the same word.

See Mem. Amer. Aced. New Series, Vol. I page 372-3.

Potter's History of Manchester, N. H., page 23.

See also an extended article upon this interesting subject in the present volume of this Magazine, (January 1888.)

From Chicago Herald, Dec., 19, 1887. The following beautiful tributes to Rev. Gideon B. Perry, D. D., LL. D., and his wife, parents of Rev. Henry G. Perry, M. A. of the Chicago Episcopal clergy, are from the gifted Rev. Dr. Albert G. Palmer, of the First Church, Stonington, Conn., who lately celebrated his fiftieth year in the sacred ministry, and the thirty-fifth anniversary of his pastorate there. He is the author of "Psalms of Faith and Songs of Life," his recent

work so favorably noticed by the press. These eloquent sonnets, memorial of Rev. Dr. Perry and his devoted consort, by an old, dear friend, from the very outset of their married and public life, can but prove interesting especially to those having read their obituaries. As a Knight Templar in New England, where Rev. Dr. Perry received his Masonic grades, he did good and faithful service, as also in other parts of the Union, North and South, as a prominent divine in the Episcopal Church. Mrs. Perry died in 1887 and her husband in 1879, in his seventy-ninth year. He was a kinsman of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, and they were born in the same room at the original "Perry Homestead," South Kingstown, R. I., Rev. Dr. Perry being the last contemporary of the old regime.

IN MEMORIAM OF REV. G. B. PERRY, D. D.

I find no fitting words to represent
 My recollections of so dear a friend,
 Admired in youth and followed to the end
 Of his long life with loving sentiment: -
 A fine physique, high brow and classic face;
 A voice of matchless melody and tune;
 Responsive as Æolian chords in June
 To all the harmonies of "truth and grace:"
 No lips I ever heard, like his could reach
 And stir the inmost fountains of the soul
 To penitential tears beyond control
 By the subduing eloquence of speech; -
 In city church or country chapel rude
 His word was grace, a sweet beatitude.

IN MEMORIAM OF MRS. ABBY BROWN PERRY.

I well remember her, a happy bride,
 But womanly, matured, graceful, and fair.
 Her thoughtful brow, crowned with a wealth of hair,
 And dignified in mien, her husband's pride;
 A lady born, queenly and beautiful,
 By perfectness of form, nor less in grace
 Of countenance and loveliness of face,
 Intelligent, devout, and dutiful,
 Alas that age, relentless in decades,
 Should be allowed to waste youth's rosy hue
 As fresh as flowers yet wet in golden dew
 And bleach to snowy whiteness girlhood's braids —
 But wasting time, nor blighting sickness more
 Shall mar her beauty on the immortal shore.

From "*Narragansett Times*," Feb. 10, 1888, The closing number of volume V. of the NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER will be issued during the coming week and is emphatically a Narragansett number. The article on Samuel Hubbard of Westerly, the founder of the Seventh Day Baptist church, is of much local interest, and "The Great Swamp Fight," by Welcome A. Greene, cannot fail to interest South Kingstown people. The genealogy of Uncas by Judge Wheeler of Stonington, is well written, and S. H. Allen contributes a number of historical notes.

The next number will contain a paper by James N. Arnold on "The causes of the contention over the Narragansett Country," which will be one of the finest papers ever published upon the habits and religious customs of that noted tribe.

From The Pendulum, June 22, 1888. The last number of the Narragansett Historical Register is a valuable one. Its table of contents embraces "The Great Secret, a historical inquiry into the causes of the contention of the New England colonies for the possession of the Narragansett Country;" "Field's Point Indian Relics;" "John Bartlett of Rehoboth;" "A History of the Fountain Street M. E. Church;" "The Antiquarian and His Work;" "The Inman Purchase in North Smithfield;" Historical and Editorial Notes. Mr. Arnold, the publisher of the Register, has found his publication thus far a losing venture, but his devotion to his chosen work remains unshaken. He is now living in a garret, and setting his own type. Thanks to Hon. Rowland Hazard of Peace Dale, he has recently come into possession of a press, which will enable him to do his own printing. Mr. Arnold's friends will be glad to know of this improvement in his prospects, and they can also render substantial aid by subscribing for his magazine.

From Education, June 1888. Samuel Hubbard of Newport 1610 — 1689. By Ray Greene Huling. Reprinted from the Narragansett Historical Register.

This invaluable historical paper, by the able superintendent of the New Bedford schools, makes a pamphlet of thirty-nine pages, and cannot fail to interest. As the author says, "The denomination of which he was a founder owes to him a heavy debt and does not hesitate to praise his memory. Let the general public now recognize his virtues, and while reserving for larger minds like those of Williams and Clarke, the more conspicuous places in the Rhode Island temple of fame, let them grant to such as he the recognition which devoted men and worthy citizens may rightfully claim."

AN ORIGINAL MUSEUM.

Aloof from dusty thoroughfare,
Where one can breathe the country air,
There lives a man who has bestowed
On him what is to few allowed.
The wealth of Indies could not find
A calmer, more contented mind.
Quaint are his fancies and his tastes,
(Upon them naught but time he wastes),
But quainter still the things designed
To express his oddity of mind.
For there within the sacred bounds
Of his own hospitable grounds,
Where grow the sunflower and the box,
The showy pansy and the phlox,
The marigold and fragrant pink,
Which doth with others sweetness link,
And all the array of blossoms rare
That thrive the best on country fare,
A rude museum had he reared
Whose like had ne'er before appeared.

There ranged in uniformity,
In stone and wooden effigy,
Stood rows of odd fantastic shapes,
Reptiles and birds, and beasts and apes,
The horrid bust of frightful snake
Which in fair hearts doth fear awake;
Or else an elephantine frog,
Caught in some dark Egyptian bog,
Whose goggle eyes and hideous stare

Complete the illusion hiding there —
Things both in heaven and on earth,
Or in the ocean have their birth.
All these and more were interspersed
With others everywhere, and nursed
With tenderest care, and artfully
Disposed to please the passer by.

Thus by the aid of brush and paint
His genius worked without restraint;
And his deft hand and ready chalk
Were e'er displayed about his walk,
While in each humble object's face
Some fearful monster he could trace.
Just as a school boy makes a scrawl
Upon some old discolored wall,
Where storm and weather long have beat,
And accident has helped the cheat,
And traces there with roguish hand,
Surrounded by a boyish band,
The form which seems to be intended
And only needs to be amended;
Or when one looks up to the sky
And views huge cloud-piles sailing high,
In which he weaves fantastic shapes,
Or birds or beasts, islands and capes,
Or monsters that ne'er lived before
In ancient times or ancient lore,
And thousand other things discerns
But by distorted fancy's eyes;
So this ingenious friend of ours
Had plainly used his mental powers,
And where good nature merely hinted,
The hint on stones and stumps imprinted.

Perhaps within his fertile brain,
 As home he hastened in his wain
 At midnight, what time on the ground
 The moon long shadows throws around,
 And makes the humblest things appear
 As though a magic hand had there
 Robed them with life and form grotesque,
 The very essence of burlesque,
 While in some stump or gnarled tree
 One might behold a mystery,
 Change it to sprite, hobgoblin, ghost,
 Or something else as suited most,
 And with imagination's eye
 Shadowy, empty figures spy
 Lurking within the sombre wood,
 When things the least are understood,
 The thought took form which he expressed
 And in strange garb at home had dressed.
 Thus from the hint by nature given
 His soul received the proper leaven;
 And by the aid of paint and chalk
 A genius rose which naught could balk.
 A freakish nature drew the plan
 Worked out by this ingenious man.

F. C. C.

Note, The Register has two friends alike in one singular circumstance – one in collecting a unique museum of natural objects; the other in embalming the fact in verse which gives by no means an unfaithful picture. Both, here, are like the ancient philosopher who saw “sermons in the trees, rocks, birds, beasts, fishes, flowers and the insects; but nature in everything.”

The Editor.

REMINISCENCES OF RHODE ISLAND IN
1842 AS CONNECTED WITH THE
DORR REBELLION.

BY HON. ELISHA DYER,

Adjutant General May 4, 1842; honorably discharged May, 1847. Governor of Rhode Island May, 1857 to May, 1859. Captain Company B, Tenth Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers, 1862.

154 Power street,

Providence, R. I., October 19, 1887.

To the Citizens of Rhode Island.

IN compliance with repeated requests from many of your number at different times, that I would give my personal reminiscences of the events of 1842 as connected with the Rebellion of Mr. Dorr, which unavoidable and adverse circumstances have thus far delayed, but the desired opportunity having occurred in the availability of the efficient services of an expert type-writer, I am enabled at this time to do as requested.

The incipient daily circumstances and occurrences of the insurrection having been most critically and extensively published, not only in the newspapers of the day; but in pamphlet and other documentary form, I shall make no special mention of these, but refer all those desirous of such special information to those published accounts.

My narrative will be entirely informal and unofficial, and connected exclusively with my personal identity in what may be hereafter referred to.

As a proper and pertinent, if not necessary, preliminary to the performance of the duties of that office, with others much more varied, engrossing and complicated, I shall refer to my life surroundings at that time.

I graduated from Brown University on September 2, 1829, being eighteen years of age, after four years of disappointing effort to acquire with immature mental and physical abilities those studies which the more matured and cultivated mind of a Wayland, Caswell and others were required to teach.

At the close of my college career, any further attention to subjects of a literary nature was not regarded or considered by me, consequently I entered as an assistant the service of the firm of Elisha Dyer & Company, who were transacting a large and extensive auction and commission business. Their place of business was then at No. 5, West Water street (now called Dyer street), utilizing the four floors, nearly one hundred feet in length, with the extensive cellar underneath. On the ground floor was a small office at the front entrance, controlling the reception and delivery of goods. On the next floor above was a larger room, about fifteen feet square, in which were the chests and boxes containing books and papers connected with my father's other business enterprises as a member of the firm of Dyer & Potter of Providence, the Rockland Manufacturing Company of Scituate, the Providence Dyeing Bleaching and Calendering Company, and others of lesser note.

My duties with the firm above mentioned were of the ordinary nature, and continued without change until the retirement of Mr. Carey Dunn, the junior partner, and his subsequent removal to New York in October, 1829, being less than one month from the date of the commencement of my connection with the firm. His unexpected retirement was a

source of great anxiety and disappointment to myself, as I was thus deprived of his instruction in the special duties of his position, he having had the care and custody of the books and papers as the accountant and correspondent, with the control of all transactions within doors, my fathers attention being entirely engrossed with the outside business of the firm, and the duties heretofore performed by Mr. Dunn would now be transferred to myself without knowledge or experience of any kind connected with them, the qualifying myself for the successful discharge of which would necessarily demand my undivided time and attention.

After the retirement of Mr. Dunn and my assumption of his duties there was no further change in my relations with the firm until the following announcement appeared in the newspapers of the day, April 1, 1830, viz:

"Elisha Dyer hereby gives notice that he has associated his son Elisha Dyer, Jr., with him in business. The name, nature and place of the business will continue an heretofore."

This very greatly increased my already engrossing and absorbing duties with unlimited responsibilities.

I received on Wednesday May 4, 1842, the unsolicited and unexpected compliment of the appointment by the Legislature of this State to the office of Adjutant General. Contemporaneous with my appointment was that of an Executive Advisory Council (composed of some of the most prominent citizens of the State), to whom the Governor could apply for advice and assistance as inclination or necessity required.

After I had received my commission as Adjutant General, I sent to my predecessor in that office for its documents, books and papers. I received in return an old-fashioned

square hair trunk, without lock or hinge, containing perhaps ten or twelve badly mutilated, dust-covered books, but no blanks, forms or papers of any kind, on receipt of which my first impulse was to return my commission.

The necessity for the resignation of my military office seemed imperative, especially with reference to subsequent events, but what appeared then and since as a prophetic intuition deterred me from so doing. I immediately addressed letters to the Adjutant General of the United States, and also to that officer in the States of New York and Massachusetts, stating my want of the proper forms of blanks, book and papers, and asking for copies of such for the purpose of aiding me in the most efficient administration of the office; from each and all of whom I received the most prompt and courteous response with a supply of what was required. I exceedingly regret that I cannot give the names of each of these to whom I was so much indebted for those favors, although I have written to the Department at Washington and the Secretaries of each of those States for such information, excepting in the case of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, whose courtesy and kindness were not restricted to the sending of blank forms and papers, but which also included a matter of much greater importance, as indicated by the following action of the Legislature of this State at its May session, 1843, recorded in its public proceedings page 22:

Resolved by this General Assembly, That whereas it hath been supposed that the State of Rhode Island was indebted to her sister Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a loan of arms during the late insurrection; and whereas it is now ascertained that the said loan of arms has been disavowed by the Chief Executive and by the Legislative authorities of the said Commonwealth, and that the responsibility and honor of so necessary and timely assistance in the great cri-

sis of our affairs was thrown and now rests upon General Henry A. S. Dearborn, late Adjutant General, and acting Quartermaster General of the militia of said Commonwealth, therefore

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Assembly be presented to the said General Henry A. S. Dearborn, for the fearless and patriotic aid by him rendered to this State by the loan of arms aforesaid; and for this expression of his sense of the duty of these United States to give, when asked, reasonable aid to each other in all struggles against wrong and violence whither from without or within; and especially in contests involving the peace, good order, safety and honor of our common country.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the said General Henry A. S. Dearborn.

The first duty of my appointment as Adjutant General was the procuring of the proper books and papers, which having received as above mentioned, I had a proper receptacle prepared for their safe keeping, which was a suitable blue chest, made with proper compartments, upon the lid of which was printed,

“ADJUTANT GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND.”

Having received permission to remove the chest of books and papers of my father’s former business enterprises previously spoken of, and to appropriate this upper room to my use in the performance of my official duties, I furnished it with the necessary accommodations for those desiring to transact business with the Department. The location of our place of business was at night the most isolated of any near the centre of the city, West Water street being at that time one of indifference importance, commencing at the south side of the Great Bridge, being that of the present location of Dyer street, but terminating at the dock which seperated the

south end of Mason's wharf and block (so called), from the then well known Long Wharf, these circumstances of time, manner and place being, as far as I could ascertain, the institution of this, the first formal Department of the State. My business relations requiring the most earnest application and constant attention, the only time that I could devote to this latter official duty was from the closing of the business transaction of one day to the early dawn of the next. I frequently recur to the long, dreary, solitary and fatiguing hours of my midnight task, when the only sound audible was the ebbing and flowing of the tide against the vessels moored at the wharf, within less than a hundred feet from me. This monotony was varied in the frequent tempestuous storms of wind and rain encircling their masts and rigging, producing in their melancholy moaning a suggestive requiem which might have been applicable to a lost State if the loyalty and patriotism of its citizens in subsequent events had not prevented.

The isolation and desolation of my midnight occupation can be better appreciated when reference is made to the ceaseless flowing of the dark river and the impenetrable darkness of a large wareroom filled with merchandise of varied character and description. The large windows of its farther extremity, for the admission of light and air, being securely closed at night by heavy iron shutters, my only security from annoyance and interruption was in the obscurity of my presence and ignorance of my purpose. There was no cheering rays of gas or electric lights, neither of which were known at that time, to assist me, my only reliance for light being in the inefficiency of sperm oil lamps and candles. My knowledge of the passing hours was from the euphonious sound of

the clock bell of the First Baptist Church as it recorded the closing hours of a past day and the dawning hours of a new one.

Having made the necessary arrangements for discharging as efficiently as possible the duties of my military office, I addressed a personal letter to each of the Town Clerks in the State, requesting immediately information of any and all military organizations in their respective towns, with the address of their commandants, to whom letters were also sent asking for the number of their rank and file, and the nature, character and conditions of their arms and equipments, with the proper filling of the blanks sent for that purpose, soliciting from each and all the most accurate and reliable information in these matters that could possibly be given. The roll of the general, field and staff officers was procured from the published proceedings of the different Legislatures from which they received their appointment. From these returns, which I received with the most commendable promptness and accuracy, I was enabled to prepare a regular formal roster of the militia of the State, this being the first of that nature that had been made as far as I could ascertain.

There had been previous to the first of May a so called election for members of the Legislature, including those of a Senate and House of Representatives. For the character and manner of that election reference is made to the full and particular details as published in the newspapers of the day. This Legislature was ordered to convene on the third of May, on which day it assembled in the vacant building on Eddy street formerly used as an iron foundry, from which circumstances it received the appellation of the "Foundry Legislature." At this time Mr. Dorr was declared the duly elected Governor of the State, after which he delivered his inaugural

address. The Legislature proceeded to the election of Legislative and Judicial officers. In consequence of these proceedings I was summoned at an early hour the next day to attend a meeting of the Advisory Council, their headquarters being in the chambers of the Old Market House. I promptly responded to the summons and was told that as a result of the foregoing proceedings a communication was to be sent to Governor King, who was then with the Legislature in Session at Newport, requesting him to have the Legislature take the necessary action in informing the President of the United States that an emergency existed which was provided for in the Constitution of the United States, for such assistance as might be required by any State wherein an insurrection against the laws and authorities of the State existed, which in its own resources it was unable to control and suppress.

I was requested to proceed immediately with the communication to the Executive as speedily as might be, arriving in Newport, if possible, before the adjournment of the morning session, as the afternoon sessions were not so generally attended by the members.

I had at that time a very valuable and reliable horse, with which in a light carriage I proceeded to Bristol Ferry. Arriving there I found the regular ferry-boat disabled and out of service, and the facilities for crossing were for foot passengers and those on horseback. In this dilemma I had to retrace my steps, and then crossing Slade's Ferry pass through Fall River, where I obtained a fresh horse, and crossing Howland's Ferry bridge I delivered the document to Governor King a short time previous to the adjournment of the morning session. Immediate action was had by the Legislature, and the next day, May fourth, a communication from the Governor to the President, — in reply to which a long

discursive answer was returned, which left it a matter of uncertainty as to what course would be adopted. Colonel Bankhead of the United States Artillery, was sent by the President to personally inspect the existence of affairs in Rhode Island and report to the President the result of his mission as speedily as possible, leaving the people of Rhode Island in painful suspense of what the President's sympathies might be.

Having fulfilled my mission I returned and reported to the committee its result and the impressions received from the action of the Legislature and the President. Up to this time the plans and purposes of Mr. Dorr and his adherents had been demonstrated by no overt forcible act. On the morning of the seventeenth of May, Mr. Dorr returned from New York over the western borders of the State with between three and four hundred followers whom he had collected from the Five Points and similar localities in New York, under the captivating watchword of the "Banks and Beauty of Providence."

A procession was formed at the Hoyle Tavern on High street, headed by a band of music, which escorted Mr. Dorr, standing up in an open barouche leaning upon his sword, through the principle streets of the city. It attracted the attention of the citizens by the degraded appearance and manner of a majority of those composing it. It was greeted by no salvos of artillery or deafening cheers and applause in its comparatively silent passage. In the latter portion of that day the excitement of the citizens was aroused to the highest possible degree of intensity and anxiety, as the members of the procession became vandals and marauders, when they proceeded to the armory of the United Train of Artillery on College street and forcibly took from the basement

the two cannon belonging to the State placed in the custody of the company, the Colonel of which being present with some of its members offering no resistance

News of this transaction spread with lightning rapidity from one end of the city to the other, and in less time than its recording requires, the junction of College street with South Main was crowded with the densest mass of loyal citizens that could congregate there. Resistance to the act which was at first suggested was soon dissipated by the rapid rush of the cannon and their captors down College street. The great jeopardy to life and limb in their progress opened a passage-way through which they were taken across Market Square to the headquarters of Mr. Dorr, which were at the house of the United States District Marshall, (Burrington Anthony) on Atwell's Avenue. Atwell's Avenue was a declivity from near the crossing of Bradford street down to its junction with Aborn street, the distance between these two points being less than a thousand feet. Burrington Anthony's house was near the top of this declivity and on the west side of the street, being on Federal Hill (so called).

The crowd subsequently dispersed as it had no ability to express its indignation other than by the most violent imprecations and threats of vengeance whenever the opportunity might be offered.

The following Legislative and Executive action was the result of my mission to Newport.

Resolved by the General Assembly, That there now exists in this State an insurrection against the laws and constituted authorities thereof; and that in pursuance of the Constitution and Laws of the United States, a requisition be, and hereby is, made by this Legislature upon the President of the United States, forthwith to interpose the authority and power of the United States to suppress such insurrection-

ary and lawless assemblages, to support the existing government and laws, and protect the State from domestic violence.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor, be requested immediately to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States.

LETTER OF GOVERNOR KING.

Pursuant to the resolution making a requisition upon the General Government, passed at the present session of the General Assembly, I authorized the Hon. Richard K. Randolph and the Hon. Elisha R. Potter to proceed to Washington and lay the resolutions before the President.

They have discharged that duty, and have returned with a communication from the President of the United States, which I herewith lay before the General Assembly.

SAMUEL W. KING.

LETTER OF PRESIDENT TYLER.

Washington City May 7, 1842.

To the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

SIR: Your letter of the 4th inst., transmitting resolution of the Legislature of Rhode Island, informing me that there existed in that State "Certain lawless assemblages of a portion of the people" for the purpose of subverting the laws and overthrowing the existing government, and calling upon the Executive "forthwith to interpose the power and authority of the United States to suppress such insurrectionary and lawless assemblages, and to support the existing government and laws and protect the State from domestic violence," was handed me on yesterday by Messrs Randolph and Potter.

I have to inform your Excellency in reply, that my opinions as to the duties of this Government to protect the State of Rhode Island against domestic violence remains unchanged. Yet from information received from the Executive since

the two cannon belonging to the State placed in the custody of the company, the Colonel of which being present with some of its members offering no resistance

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Washington City May 7, 1842.

To the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

SIR: Your letter of the 4th inst., transmitting resolution of the Legislature of Rhode Island, informing me that there existed in that State "Certain lawless assemblages of a portion of the people" for the purpose of subverting the laws and overthrowing the existing government, and calling upon the Executive "forthwith to interpose the power and authority of the United States to suppress such insurrectionary and lawless assemblages, and to support the existing government and laws and protect the State from domestic violence," was handed me on yesterday by Messrs Randolph and Potter.

I have to inform your Excellency in reply, that my opinions as to the duties of this Government to protect the State of Rhode Island against domestic violence remains unchanged. Yet from information received from the Executive since

your dispatches came to hand, I am lead to believe that the lawless assemblages to which reference is made, have already dispersed, and that the danger of domestic violence is hourly diminishing, if it has not wholly disappeared. I have with difficulty brought myself at any time to believe that violence would be resorted to, or an exigency arise, which the unaided powers of the State could not meet, especially as I have from the first felt persuaded that your Excellency, as well as others associated with yourself in the administration of the government, would exhibit a temper of conciliation as well as energy and decision. To the insurgents themselves it ought to be obvious, when the excitement of the moment shall have passed away, that changes achieved by regular, and, if necessary, repeated appeals to the constituted authorities, in a country so much under the influence of public opinion, and by recourse to argument and remonstrance, and more likely to ensure lasting blessings than those accomplished by violence and bloodshed on one day and liable to overthrow by similar agents on another. I freely confess that I should experience great reluctance in employing the military power of this Government against any portion of the people; but, however painful the duty, I have to assure your Excellency that if resistance is made to the execution of the laws of Rhode Island, by such force as the *civil posse* shall be unable to overcome, it will be the duty of this Government to enforce the Constitutional guarantee — a guarantee given and adopted by all the original States, of which number Rhode Island was one, and which, in the same way, has been given and adopted by each of the States since admitted into the Union; and if an exigency of lawless violence shall actually arise, The Executive Government of the United States, on the application of your Excellency, under the authority of the resolutions of the Legislature already transmitted, will stand ready to succor the authorities of the State in their efforts to maintain a due respect for the laws. I sincerely hope, however, that no such exigency may occur, and that every citizen of Rhode Island will manifest his love

of peace and good order by submitting to the laws and seeking a redress of grievance by other means than intestine commotions.

I tender to your Excellency assurances of my distinguished considerations.

JOHN TYLER.

RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to issue his Proclamation, making known the letter received by him from the President of the United States, to the people of this State, and to cause a sufficient number of copies of the Letter and his Proclamation to be printed for distribution; and to cause them to be distributed in all the Towns of this State.

It was apprehended that the possession of the cannon already referred to, would incite the insurgents to further and greater acts of violence and disorder, and such apprehension was confirmed by the fact being known that on the next day, the eighteenth of May, an attempt would be made for the capture and possession of the State Arsenal, which contained the arms and ammunition of the State, with all other requisitions for military purposes. It would be impossible to conceive, much less describe, the intensity of the indignation and determination of the people of the State to resist and prevent the success of any such contemplated action. The Governor received the universal assurances of the loyal citizens to sustain the authorities of the State by such means and measures as might be proposed. On the evening of that day, at six o'clock, I was requested to come as speedily as possible to the headquarters of the Executive and Advisory Council. As I entered the room they thanked me for the prompt response and told me that there was a locomotive at

the Stonington railroad station, then on Eddy street, with a sufficient number of cars all in complete readiness, awaiting my control and direction, with which I was to proceed as rapidly as possible to East Greenwich and order Colonel George T. Allen, commander of the Kentish Guards, to rally his men, and also see Ezra Pollard, Esq., a highly respected and loyal citizen, and the former with his command, and requesting the latter to notify as many of the loyal citizens as would accompany Colonel Allen's command in returning with the train to Providence without delay. Apprehending some neglect, delay or deficiency in the above arrangement at the station of the Stonington railroad, on leaving the Council Chamber I went to my own residence on Westminster street, opposite the junction with Walker, and notified my family that I should probably be engaged with the Governor and Council through the night, and not to feel any anxiety as to my personal safety whatever might occur. It should be stated that the signal notifying the citizens of an attack upon the Arsenal would be three tolling strokes upon the different church bells of the city.

After thus seing my family I went to the stable of Mr. Charles Ellis, at the corner of Fenner and Pond streets, and told him to take his best horse and lightest carriage and drive me to the station of the Stonington railroad. It was as I had apprehended; there was not a light to be seen or sound to be heard in or around the station; even the watchman could not be found. I told Mr. Ellis there was no alternative, but that he must drive me as speedily as possible to East Greenwich, and if our progress was intercepted or interrupted from any cause or by any person or persons, he was to give his name and vocation, and under no circumstances to make known who was his companion. As we ap-

proached Pawtuxet we were stopped by several squads of men, greater or less in number, each having some means of attack or defence, the nature of which in the darkness it was impossible to discern. They demanded to know who we were and what was our business. and made inquiries as to the state of things in Providence.

Mr. Ellis replied that "when he left Providence everything was quiet. My name is Charles Ellis, and I keep a livery stable at the corner of Fenner and Pond streets. The person with me having missed the train, I am taking him to Apponaug."

The spokesman of this party, turning to his companions, said; "That's all right, boys; get out of the road," and told us to go ahead.

There were three or four interruptions of a similar nature which necessarily impeded our progress, and it was nearly midnight when we reached East Greenwich. The village was literally deserted for there was not a person to be seen. In moving about the place I observed a light, which from its obscurity and the passing of persons to and fro between it and the window, suggested that it was a watcher's light in a sick chamber. There was no alternative but to approach it, which I did as noiselessly as possible. Gently tapping at the door, a female came to the upper window and asked who it was and what was wanted. I replied that I was a stranger and was very sorry to disturb them, but as their light was the only one visible, I had no alternative. I was a friend of Mr. Ezra Pollard, whom I wished to see for a short time on important business, and asked if they would kindly direct me to his residence.

The information was promptly given, and I found Mr. Pollard's place without difficulty. At this time there were no

friction matches, and after knocking at the door some little time elapsed before a light was produced from the old-fashioned tinder-box with flint and steel, and brimstone matches. With light in hand, Mr. Pollard opened a window in an upper story and the usual interrogation was made of, "Who are you, and what do you want?"

I replied, "A friend, who wishes to see you for a few minutes on important business. You need not open any door, but come down to a lower window."

When he had done so, I told him of my orders to Colonel Allen and the request of the Governor and Council to himself.

I inquired where Colonel Allen was to be found.

He told me that he was residing with his father-in-law on a farm about three miles distant from the village, but on a distinct road, and one easily found from its character and surroundings. We found the house very readily and secured the horse at some little distance from it, so as not to attract attention from any inquisitive passer by.

There was one circumstance which I have never been able to satisfactorily explain, as I approached the house not from the roadside, but through the barnyard, much to the annoyance of the ruminating cattle who were quietly reposing there. The commotion was quickly noticed from the house, and a man with a lantern soon appeared. I inquired if Colonel Allen was at home, and if so to call him, saying that a friend wished to see him on important business. In my recollection we had never met before. As he approached me, in order to prevent any mistake as to his identity, I inquired who he was and from whence he derived his military title?

He replied, "I am Colonel George T. Allen, commander of the Kentish Guards."

I then gave him my name and official position, with the orders from the Governor.

He replied, "That it would be a very difficult matter to execute them, as my men are scattered in different sections of the surrounding country, pursuing their various vocations."

I told him of my interview with Mr. Pollard, whom I requested him to see as soon as possible, as he was awaiting to assist him in the discharge of his duty in obedience to his orders,

His reply was, "I pledge you my most earnest efforts to discharge in the most prompt manner possible the duties assigned to me. I will see Mr. Pollard without delay, and will most heartily cooperate with him."

Before leaving Greenwich to find Colonel Allen, I notified the station master that there would probably be a special train from Providence to East Greenwich, which he was to retain in readiness until he had received orders for its disposition from Mr. Pollard, Colonel Allen or myself. Having thus discharged the duties assigned to me, we returned to Providence as speedily as possible, as my orders were to report myself at the Tockwotten Hotel as near the hour of three o'clock the next morning as I could, to receive the troops that had been ordered from Newport, Bristol and Warren, providing them with breakfast and whatever was required for their necessity and comfort, the Quartermaster General being then on duty at the Arsenal. Previous to our return a most dense and impenetrable fog had arisen, which, with our jaded horse, impeded our progress very much. The road and the surrounding objects being almost entirely obscured, our only resource was to depend upon the instincts of the horse in keeping the road and avoiding obstacles, and under these circumstances our progress was very much retarded. After passing through Pawtuxet in the impressive silence existing

all around us, the very ominous signal of the tolling bells was distinctly heard, and this, of course, created an intensity of alarm and anxiety.

No description of the Arsenal having been given, it will be here inserted. It was a large isolated, two-story stone building situated on the north side of Cranston street, about a mile and a half west of the Great Bridge, so called. In the rear was the large (then unoccupied), unobstructed area known as the Dexter Training Ground, which extended from Cranston street to the south side of High street, on the opposite side of which was the residence and grocery store of Mr. John Burton, whose family, anticipating the results which might occur from their entirely unprotected position, passed that entire night in the cellar. This area was filled *en masse* with the insurgents having the two pieces of cannon previously referred to. The Arsenal was filled to its utmost capacity with loyal citizens, among whom, it was at time reported, were Mr. Dorr's father and two uncles. The windows of the upper story of the Arsenal were filled with men with loaded muskets. The large doors of the lower story when open, were occupied with artillery, ordnance loaded with ball, grape-shot and powerful charges of powder. Thus the entire area was covered by loaded artillery and musketry. The orders were that no notice was to be taken of the presence of the insurgents, until some overt act and unmistakable demonstration of their intentions should be recognized. An attempt was made to discharge their cannon, but the powder only flashed. In consequence of the density of the fog this was not observed by those in the Arsenal, and consequently no recognition and response was made. What the result would have been in the destruction of life and property had the attempt been recognized or known, is beyond computation

or conjecture. A little circumstance which occurred at the time of the attempted attack gave evidence of reason on the part of some of the insurgents. It was said that on seeing the flash, a captain of a Pawtucket company, turning to his command, said, "that he had no objection to being a military escort, but he had not the least idea or intention of being made a military corpse, and that he was going home." In this sensible conclusion his company participated, and they left the field.

I arrived at the Tockwotten Hotel between the hours of three and four o'clock in the morning. The fog having by this time partly dissipated, the steamboat Providence was seen rapidly approaching around Field's Point seemingly crowded with troops. I immediately aroused the then popular host of the Tockwotten Hotel, Daniel Ross, Esq., who promptly summoned his corps of attendants for the preparation of food for the approaching companies. I met the steamboat on its arrival at the wharf, and informed the different commandants of the arrangements which were being made for their comfort, which information was greeted with hearty cheers, and all immediately proceeded to the Hotel. Arrived there we found three long tables in the extensive dining hall, upon which had been placed an ample supply of hot coffee, bread and cold meats. The companies were all equipped as infantry, having left their artillery ordnance in their respective armories, knowing that there was an ample supply of such in the State Arsenal. Their loaded muskets were placed upon the floor, and the men were soon engaged with the contents of the tables.

While thus employed, a messenger brought me an order to have the troops come immediately to the centre of the city, and notwithstanding they had been without food and rest

for the preceeding thirty hours, there was not a murmer or remonstrance from them. A column was quickly formed of the troops and the volunteer citizens who had accompanied them, consisting of many of the most prominent citizens of the City and State. The line of march was down Wickenden street, up South Main, being led by the only music, which was brought by the Bristol Artillery, consisting of a bugle, clarionet and base drum, by which the characteristic tune of "Old Bristol," was improvised. The column was met between Power and Planet streets by Colonel William Blodgett, who had been a former commandant of the Independent National Cadets of this city. He formally stated that he had been directed to assume command of the column. The line of march was continued up South Main street across Market Square, up Westminster to Orange street, where, at the request of the different commandants, a halt was made, as their men needed food and rest. I requested Colonel Blodgett not to move the column until my return after a very short absence. I went immediately to the City Hotel, and through the courtesy and promptness of the proprietors, Colonel Whitcomb and son, a similar provision to that as the Tockwotten Hotel was promptly furnished. I then informed Colonel Blodgett of what had been done, and the column moved to the front of the City Hotel. For the second time the men were again at the tables.

After a very short interval the men were again ordered to "Fall in," which was promptly done with the same cheerful alacrity as before. The line of march was resumed, and passed through Mathewson street, up Westminster, through Aborn to its junction with Atwells Avenue.

Here was presented one of the most appalling spectacles that could be conceived, and at which the stoutest heart

might quail. The head of the column was at the foot of Atwell's Avenue, at the top of which were the two cannon abreast, pointing directly down the avenue, being surrounded by a group of frantic and frenzied men, many of them in their shirt sleeves and some of them astride of the cannon with lighted torches, waiting for the order to fire, while the rest were moving to and fro with wild, incoherent gesticulations and vociferous demands to those in the immediate vicinity for the discharge of the cannon at the approaching column composed as it was of nearly a thousand men of the best citizens of the State. As the troops halted before ascending the hill, I passed along the column to observe the effect of this most critical situation upon the men. It seemed as if every countenance had become as marble, in the intense rigid fixedness of every feature expressive of the sternest determination not to change until the accomplishment of the purpose for which they had come had been attained. There was not a blanched cheek, or a quivering lip to be seen.

Returning to my post after a short absence the whole scene had been changed as if by magic. The cannon had been abandoned, and the several groups of the insurgents by which they had been surrounded were massed in one large body, evidently in a state of the wildest bewilderment, anxiety and suspense. Not an action was seen nor a sound heard in their earnest conference as to what had occurred! Had there been an interposition of Divine Providence? If not, what was it? What could have happened that had so suddenly and entirely changed the aspect of affairs? It was a matter of the most earnest conjecture what it was by every one, but without the ability of any one to solve it? That it had been an event productive of the most important results to all concerned, was very evident. What was it? DORR HAD FLED! His

most intimate friends had visited the house with a carriage from the rear and had taken him where or for what purpose it was impossible to conjecture.

The cannon were withdrawn to the brow of the hill overlooking the Woonasquatucket Valley. A line of sentinels with muskets and fixed bayonets were stationed on the sides of the area, excepting the rear. The column of loyal troops was immediately dismissed, and rapidly dispersed for the food and rest which they so much needed.

Dorr had fled; the Arsenal was safe. Should these facts finish my narrative? No; they are but the introduction to it.

The complications in the State, difficult and intricate as they had been, were greatly embarrassed, if not stimulated and strengthened, by the active sympathies of the then Governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut, the former of whom, if I mistake not, had addressed a large gathering of the disaffected in the interests of Mr. Dorr. The Governor of Connecticut offered him a convenient and safe retreat in case of any emergency requiring it, and of this offer Mr. Dorr and his friends had at this time availed themselves. It was soon known that he had gone to visit his friend at Hartford, and the relief to the citizens of the State was greater than can be imagined; but with it came the anxious inquiry as to what would occur next? Thus passed the day succeeding the attack upon the Arsenal.

Weary and worn I had permission to pass the next night with my family, relieved from duty. Retiring early for much needed rest, I soon found that sleep and repose which exhausted nature demanded. As the clock in the tower of the First Universalist Church was striking the midnight hour there came a vigorous and protracted assault upon my front door, which aroused my entire household, each and all with

the greatest anxiety inquiring what and how great was the impending danger. More lifeless than awake I raised the window over the door and inquired, "Well, who and what is it?"

The reply was, "Colonel Allen, with the Kentish Guards and volunteer citizens of East Greenwich, and we want food and protection for the night."

I inquired, "For what number?"

His reply was, "Nearly if not quite one hundred."

Here then, were this large number of houseless, weary and hnngrny men to be provided with food and shelter, and the hour was past midnight. Where and how relief was to be afforded was a problem to be solved.

The Governor was at his residence two miles distant, and the Quarter-master General would most certainly be at the Arsenal, while the Commissary General I had not known during the whole period of these complications.

My experience in life has led me to observe that there is hardly any occurrence or circumstance of any nature or character of greater or less importance that has not in some manner or form its compensation. What was the compensation for the occurrence of the previous night? A very natural and opportune one — an early breakfast.

But to return to the disposition of the Kentish Guards. Without spending much time in arranging my toilet, but making myself as comfortable as I could under the circumstances, I met Colonel Allen at the door and told him I would do the best I could for him, but that he was very well aware of the inopportuneness of the hour, and the large number of men that he had with him to be provided for. I told him to order his men to "Fall in," and then I led them to the armory of the National Cadets, on College street, adjacent

to that of the United Train of Artillery. I told the Colonel that this was the best that I could do under the circumstances, and asked him what was required to make his men comfortable. He replied that the most they needed was food; and that he was in the immediate vicinity of the Manufacturers Hotel and Franklin House, from which and the many restaurants which were located near the centre of the city, he could obtain all that might be required for his men. At that time Colonel Preston Hodges and his son were the proprietors of the Franklin House, and, if I mistake not, John Wilder kept the Manufacturers Hotel, and next north of these was the National Hotel, kept by Harvey Perry. I saw these different proprietors and informed them of the peculiar circumstances and requested them to afford Colonel Allen and his men such facilities as their comfort or necessity might require, for which the State would be responsible. This would undoubtedly appear to some as an unwarranted assumption of responsibility on my part, but there was no alternative in the inaccessibility of the Governor, Quarter-master General and the Commissary General.

The troops remained there until morning, and I returned to my home. While partaking of an early breakfast the next morning and explaining to my family the cause of Colonel Allen's unavoidable detention, and expressing my surprise that he was able to get there at all, because his men were scattered over such a large section and were not easily reached, our breakfast and conference was interrupted by a rapid knocking on the front door; the bell-pull being obscured by a blind, the vibrations which its use would create could not possibly be as impressive and effective as the summons upon the front door; the reverberations of sounds which had been so startlingly surprising a few hours previous were as success-

ful in attracting attention. The attendant informed me that a person wished to see the Adjutant General at once. He was soon ushered in, and as he approached me I recognized the usual messenger from the Governor and Council, and asked him his business with me. He replied that the Governor and Council had been in Conference and desired my presence as early as possible. Promptly responding to their request I was soon with them. As I entered the chamber I recognized Edward and Daniel Wilkinson, Gideon L. Spencer and others of the prominent citizens of Pawtucket. Governor King informed me that these gentlemen were a delegation from the citizens of Pawtucket, where the greatest apprehension and anxiety existed because of the gathering of a large and constantly increasing crowd of lawless and disaffected persons, whose object undoubtedly were deeds of violence of whatever nature might present themselves and to control and suppress which any available civil force would be entirely inadequate, and asking for the presence of a military force. The Governor inquired if I had the ability with any available force to comply with their request. I then informed him of the very opportune arrival of the night previous of Colonel Allen and his command, which under his direction I would immediately detail to establish a post at the bridge connecting the two States, thus preventing any incursion from the adjoining State of Massachusetts, on whose border these lawless persons had gathered. I immediately gave such order to Colonel Allen, and he proceeded at once to execute it. He was also ordered to take such measures as in his judgment would most efficiently accomplish the objects desired, cooperating with the citizens in such manner as might be mutually decided upon.

Immediately after my interview with Colonel Allen I returned to the Council, and at his request asked the delegation from Pawtucket if they would anticipate the arrival of his command at Pawtucket and make such arrangements for their reception and accommodation while there as their comfort and necessities might require, thus obviating any delay that would otherwise occur. Upon this the delegates retired and the Council adjourned. The discharge of this duty assigned to Colonel Allen and his command was so judiciously and effectively performed that it received the unqualified approbation of all to whom it was known.

After the events which had occurred on Federal Hill, the following action was taken by the Legislature of the State, at the June Session, 1842.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF MARTIAL LAW.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

Section I. The Governor and Council are hereby authorized and empowered, whenever in their opinion the public exigency requires it, to declare and establish Martial Law throughout the State, or any part or portion thereof.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING MARTIAL LAW IN THIS STATE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

Section I. The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations is hereby placed under martial law; and the same is declared to be in full force until otherwise ordered by the General Assembly, or suspended by proclamation of His Excellency the Governor of the State.

The Legislature being then in session, I requested authority from it to appoint as many assistants as I might require with the rank of Captain. This request was granted, and I appointed Messrs Samuel C. Blodgett and Francis E. Hoppin for immediate service, reserving the appointment of others until such time as their services should be required.

From Hartford Mr. Dorr returned to Rhode Island and located himself at the village of Chepachet, upon what was known as Acote's Hill, so called from a former proprietor or occupant. He proceeded to establish a camp, upon notice of which his adherents, regardless of his recent act of cowardice and treachery in his desertion of them, with that strange infatuation which governs and controls misguided humanity, one and all rallied around him.

Subsequent to the attack upon the Arsenal, and previous to the occurrences just referred to, a weekly rendezvous on every Saturday for what may be termed battalion drills of the militia of the State was had on Smith's Hill, in Providence, in which I acted as Adjutant on foot. At the last one which was held, I was ordered to appear mounted, General McNeil and his personal friend, Colonel Bankhead, being present. As I entered the field a paper was handed me from Governor King, with which I was to take position in the center of the field and make known its contents. They were the announcement of the resignation of James G. Anthony as Major General of the militia of the State, and the appointment of William Gibbs McNeil, of Stonington Connecticut, as his successor, whose future orders were to be respected and obeyed accordingly; his headquarters would be established at the Tockwotten Hotel. This location was selected on account of its retired situation and the amplitude of its partially occupied premises.

Upon the dismissal of the troops I was approached by General McNeil and complimented upon the discharge of my duty, and at the same time ordering me to come to headquarters the next morning (which was Sunday), at eight o'clock bringing with me the latest published map of the State and its vicinity. I promptly reported myself at the appointed time and place with one of Stevens' latest published maps of the State.

We went to Colonel Bankhead's private room, upon the wall of which the map was suspended. General McNeil then addressed me as follows; "Colonel Dyer," (that being at that time the rank of the Adjutant and Quarter-master Generals corresponding to that in the United States service), " I am comparatively a stranger in your State. You are familiar with its localities and its people. My orders will be given you at such times and of such a nature as the exigencies of the time, place and circumstances may demand, for the detail and faithful execution of which the responsibility will be yours. In the first place I wish to know if you have a regular reliable enrollment of your State militia, and the probable number properly equipped which can be made available?"

I replied that I had one of quite recent date, from which as near as I could estimate, there would be between two and three thousand troops, if not more.

His reply was, "That is very satisfactory. Your attendance at headquarters will be regular and prompt, and of such duration as may be required. We will now proceed to the examination of the map, Chepachet being the objective point. Where and what is it?"

"It is a village of several hundred inhabitants and some manufacturing industries. It is about sixteen miles northwest from Providence."

"What place of prominence is there between Providence and Chepachet?"

"I replied, "The small village of Greenville."

"Establish that then as a military Post, under the command of a prompt and efficient officer with a force of at least five hundred men."

In compliance with this order, Colonel William W. Brown, of the First Light Infantry, was ordered to proceed with his command to that post, being also reinforced by the Marine Artillery, under the command of Colonel George C. Nightingale.

His next question was, "What place of importance is there east of Chepachet nearest to the Massachusetts line?"

I replied, "Woonsocket; about twelve miles from Chepachet, which is a large manufacturing place at the head of the Blackstone valley; and from which to Providence, on the Blackstone river, was almost a continuous line of manufacturing establishments and villages."

"Very well, establish a Post there with not less than four hundred men."

Colonel Josiah H. Martin, of the National Cadets was ordered to proceed with his command forthwith, which would be reinforced at the earliest possible moment with such other troops as might be sent there, all of which he was to assume the command of awaiting further orders.

"What is there between Chepachet and the Connecticut line?"

"The large manufacturing village of Scituate Mills."

"Establish that as another Post with a force of at least four hundred men."

The command of this Post was assigned to Colonel William B. Swan, of the Newport Artillery, which was reinforced by

the Bristol Artillery, under the command of Colonel William R. Taylor, and the Warren Artillery, under the command of Colonel Guy M. Fessenden, if I am not mistaken, all being placed under the command of Colonel Swan.

While thus engaged with General McNeil I was called below by the information that an officer of the militia was waiting to see me. It was Colonel Abel G. Tripp, commanding the Tenth Regiment of Rhode Island Militia, who reported that his entire command was then at Olneyville, consisting of more than one hundred equipped men. An order was immediately prepared directing him to give his men an early dinner at the tavern in Olneyville, after which he was to report himself with his command to Colonel Martin at Woonsocket before seven o'clock that evening. He was asked if he understood the nature of his orders and the necessity for a prompt and strict compliance with them.

He replied, "Yes, and at the earliest possible moment I will proceed to the execution of them."

We were again interrupted in the examination of the map by a message that a gentleman was waiting below, and was desirous of an interview with Major General McNeil. The gentleman was requested to come up stairs.

As he entered the room I recognized Samuel F. Man, Esq. I introduced him to General McNeil as one of the most prominent citizen of the State, being largely interested in manufacturing in the valley of the Blackstone. He apologized to General McNeil for his intrusion upon his time and attention at such an important hour. He had come at the request of the proprietors of many valuable manufacturing establishments in the valley, by whom the most serious apprehensions were entertained as to the security of their extensive and most valuable property in that locality, and suggested that a

large force be concentrated at Woonsocket as the most available position from which protection could be afforded to the industries of that section.

This apprehension so extensively pervaded that locality that companies of more than fifty men each had been duly organized and equipped both at Albion and Manville (both large villages). These companies were ready to unite with any other force that might be detailed under the command of an intelligent and competent officer.

General McNeil's reply was, "This subject has already received my attention at the suggestion of the Adjutant General, and orders had already been issued for the establishment of a post at Woonsocket under the command of a thoroughly competent officer."

I turned to Mr. Man and asked him if the assurances which he had given were perfectly reliable, as it was a matter pregnant with the most important results.

His reply was, "You know very well Colonel Dyer, who I am, and the reliability that can be attached to my assurances."

I told him that I was well aware of the integrity of his character, his ability and his firmness of purpose, but would the men be reliable? I then told him of the order to Colonel Tripp, and that the most expeditious way of accomplishing the object would be to unite with Colonel Tripp on his march to Woonsocket, and with him to report to Colonel Martin.

His reply was. "I give you my personal guarantee that your suggestion shall be adopted by both companies."

With this he expressed his entire satisfaction, and with a very courteous, "Good morning gentlemen," retired.

With this unexpected addition to the force assigned to Woonsocket, the four hundred troops as ordered, with the promised cooperation of the citizens of Woonsocket, would be readily obtained.

In this manner, with the critical revision of what had previously been done, the day passed, not however, in an unconsciousness of its sacred character, but in the faithful discharge of the most imperative duties, which we trusted would be acceptable to its Divine Author as the substitute for the customary duties and obligations due its character.

The next morning was of the most inclement nature, there being a tempestuous southeast storm of wind and rain, in which there had been no abatement rendering exposure extremely unpleasant if not hazardous.

In the evening, about seven o'clock, a messenger appeared, stating that the Governor and Council required the immediate attendance of the Adjutant General. I had at this time two horses in the barn appropriated to my service, the one belonging to my family, the other placed at my disposal by the Hon. Amos C. Barstow. They were alternately kept saddled and bridled night and day. I reported to General McNeil the message which I had received, to which he replied, "You are very well aware, sir, that your official duties are exclusively attached to and connected with these headquarters. If you respond to the request made to you, it will be strictly as a matter of courtesy on your part."

I replied that, "my relations with Governor King had been of the most agreeable and intimate character, and as a matter of respect and regard for him personally I should comply with the request which had been made upon me."

He replied, "But be very cautious sir, that whatever you may do must not in the least degree effect the past and future operations of these headquarters, which if done would subject you to the most serious consequences as a result."

At this time there were no India rubber coats or proper protection for the body; the use of a horse could only compli-

cate the difficulties then existing, and the use of an umbrella in the fierce wind was out of the question, and thus with no protection against the storm other than any ordinary wardrobe I accompanied the messenger to the Council Chamber more than a mile distant.

As I entered the room I was most discourteously and abruptly addressed by a member of the Council: "Well sir, it is very well that you are here."

Much to my regret Governor King was not present. I had observed in the room a person whose appearance indicated an equal, if not greater exposure to the storm than myself. The person addressing me called my attention to him, remarking, "That is Mr. Richard Knight, High Sheriff of the County. He has been sent as a special messenger to the Governor and Council from the National Cadets at Woonsocket. He has a letter which you will read and act accordingly."

I asked if the letter was addressed to me personally.

He replied, "That it was addressed to the Governor and Council."

I declined reading it, upon which he took it from Sheriff Knight, and turning to me said, "I will read it to you, and to which you will give your most earnest attention and consideration."

The letter stated that information had been received that the camp at Chepachet had been broken up, and that the insurgents were moving in a body upon Woonsocket; that the Cadet Company was the only military force to offer resistance to them in case of an attempted violence, in which case but a very feeble resistance could be made; that the company was then quartered in a large brick building, in which they should protect themselves to the utmost of their ability, but it was imperatively necessary that reinforcements

should be sent them in the speedest manner possible, or in case this could not be done, that orders for their retreat should be substituted.

I replied that the only reinforcements then available in the city were the City Fencibles, with the heavy Paixhan gun, which would be utterly impossible to transport to that place under the existing circumstances.

He replied, "Very well then, send an order for their immediate retreat?"

I replied that it would be impossible for me to do so without positive orders from General McNeil.

He said, "How dare you sir, while your fellow-citizens are being shot down like dogs, interpose a question of military etiquette against their protection?"

I replied that the writer of the letter was evidently very much mistaken, and I referred to the orders which had been issued to Colonel Tripp and the interview with Mr. Man, with whom he was very well acquainted, and in whose integrity and reliability any assurance which he might give was as unlimited as it was unquestionable.

Our interview had thus far been more of a personal and disagreeable nature, from his manner and remarks, than the occasion justified. I further told him that my orders were not to protract my absence from headquarters any longer than was absolutely necessary, and to report as early as possible concerning what had been required and done, and therefore any further continuance of the interview was unnecessary.

I then returned immediately to headquarters and reported minutely what had passed. In reference to the order for retreat, General McNeil said, "You acted with proper judgment and discretion; had the order been issued it would have been his most painful but imperative duty to have placed me

under arrest subject to the action of a Court Martial for trial for disobedience of orders and assumption of authority."

He then remarked, "I am under the necessity of passing the night with my family at Stonington. There is at the station of the Stonington railroad a locomotive in readiness for my use in going to Stonington, and with which I shall return to headquarters tomorrow morning by eight o'clock."

He then bade us, - myself and assistants, - "Good evening," after which the remainder of the night was spent by us in trying to solve the mystery which enveloped and caused the occurrences which had taken place.

The next morning was a bright, balmy May morning, and after breakfast we were seated on the piazza awaiting the return of General McNeil. Prompt to the hour he returned and seated himself with us. After a short time had elapsed, what I supposed to be an apparition was seen coming up the steps. It was Colonel Tripp, who, approaching me, bade me, "Good morning."

My reply was, "Good Heavens, sir, what are you doing here?"

He remarked, "Don't be angry, Colonel."

"What is the matter?" I asked him again very earnestly. "What are you doing here, sir? Why are you not at Woonsocket in obedience to orders?"

He replied, "My men had their dinner Sunday, and were all ready to march to Woonsocket as ordered. A person came up to me and inquired what company of militia that was? I told him it was the Tenth Regiment of Rhode Island Militia with more than a hundred men, of which I was the commanding officer, and I showed him the orders which I had received. He then said, "I am of the Governor's Council; get your men into line and follow me?" As

soon as this was accomplished he led us into Providence and marched us up to the Colleges, where he made arrangements for our remaining through the night, and that is where my men are now waiting my return with the orders for the day."

General McNeil came forward and asked what was the meaning of what he had overheard?

I related to him the events as they had occurred, and he, turning to Colonel Tripp, said very imperatively, "Come here sir?"

As he approached he took out his watch and holding it before Colonel Tripp, said, "Do you see what time it is sir?"

To which Colonel Tripp replied, "Yes sir, I do."

General McNeil said to him, "I'll give you just one hour, sir, by that watch for you and your men to be on the march to Woonsocket, and if not, you shall have a drum head Court Martial."

Tripp, turning to me asked what that meant. I replied, "It means this: if you are in the city one hour from this time you will be shot."

After this there was not much parleying, but he precipitately left.

The renewing of the order to Colonel Tripp was by no means an inconsiderate act. for it must not be forgotten that upon the evacuation or breaking up of Mr. Dorr's camp at Chepachet there would be let loose upon the people and the property of the State a horde of the most unprincipled persons, desperate in character and purpose, whose desperation had been in the highest degree aggravated and intensified by the failure in the fulfillment of the pledge under which they had been enlisted and rallied around Mr. Dorr, and by which they had, with hardly an exception, so persistently adhered to his person, fate and fortune, instigated by the determined

hope and purpose of securing its fullest and speediest accomplishment, substituting, if necessary, the most wide-spread pillage and plunder upon every species of property which could be accessible to them.

The reported departure and returning to the State of Mr. Dorr had attracted the attention and consideration of General McNeil, and caused the issue of the following order to prevent their recurrence, and to which he directed my special attention to its execution and character. It was to establish a line of pickets around the western and northern borders of our State to prevent the escape of any and all persons who had in any manner, in a greater or less degree, been identified with the present insurrection by which the time, attention and vigorous exertions of the citizens in its control and possible suppression had been demanded and exercised. Orders were accordingly sent to General Alphonso Greene, of Apponaug, Warwick, commanding the Fourth Brigade, and to General John B. Steadman, of Westerly, commanding the Third Brigade, with their respective commands, either of them to take command as the date of their respective commissions would designate, but to mutually unite and cooperate in the manner by which the speediest and most effective action could be had, in compliance with the tenor, spirit and intention of the order which they had received.

This order was promptly executed by General Steadman. I was informed that General Greene also intending the execution of his order had rallied his men at the railway station at Apponaug, and while awaiting the arrival of the cars for the transportation of the command, was approached by a stranger inquiring the object and purpose of the rallying, in reply to which General Greene showed him his orders.

He remarked, "That order will amount to nothing. How long have your men been under arms?"

"Two days," was the General's reply.

The stranger then said. "Let your men disperse and go home. I am one of the Governor's Council, and for which I will be responsible."

My informant of the foregoing facts was a yoeman, although personally unknown to me and even whose name I have since been unable to ascertain, but whose appearance and intelligence seemed to entitle him to the fullest confidence. He remarked, "General Greene is still at Apponaug in compliance with the directions he received from a member of the Governor's Council, and his command has already dispersed."

Another purpose beside the arrest of the afore-mentioned persons, was to prevent the incursions from adjoining States of persons of like character in their desperate and lawless intentions and actions, naturally supposing that in the confusion and irregularity of the execution of the laws which existing circumstances might create, opportunity might be had for joining in a general pillage and plunder. In order to avoid any misapprehension of the character of the orders to General's Greene and Steadman, and to promote its speediest execution, a copy of this order was personally delivered to each by my assistants.

The day following the reception of the information of Mr. Dorr's evacuation of his camp, all at headquarters who were officially attached or connected therewith, were ordered to be in readiness to accompany General McNeil on a tour of inspection for the purpose of accurately learning the condition of things at Chepachet, and for the adoption of such measures for the care and custody of such property of the State as might be found there.

The escort attending General McNeil left headquarters at noon making quite an imposing appearance. During a tem-

porary halt on Market Square, a letter was brought me by a prominent citizen of Providence with the request that it should not be read until a favorable opportunity should occur, when my undivided time and attention could be given to it, so as to enable me to give its contents the most careful and deliberate consideration which they demanded.

Upon arriving at Chepachet in the early afternoon I was approached by Colonel William W. Brown, who had been detailed on duty at Chepachet. In our interview he remarked, "It is a very easy matter, General, for you, remaining at headquarters, to issue such orders as may be dictated, but not so easy for those of us in the field to execute. I refer to the order that was sent directing me to collect a sufficient number of horses for the formation of a Cavalry Corps to act in any emergency which might arise."

I replied, "I do not know of any such order having been issued."

Upon the examination of the order it was observed that it was signed by a member of the Executive Council.

Upon returning from Chepachet and retiring to my apartment I took the letter above referred to, and about which my curiosity had been most actively excited. The purport of the letter was that my fellow-citizens recognizing the prominent and comparatively authoritative position I occupied, requested that I should cause such stringent measures to be adopted against those who had been the most active in promoting, aiding and abetting the present insurrection, that upon its suppression there could be no possibility of a renewal of any further effects of a similar nature. The authors of this letter had entirely misapprehended the extent and character of my official duties, and had forgotten also the fact that upon the suppression of the insurrection the civil law, which

had been superseded by martial law, would again assume the jurisdiction of all matters which naturally belonged to it.

The following is an extract from the *Providence Journal* of Thursday, June 30th, 1842:

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

SAMUEL WARD KING,

*Governor, Captain General, and Commander in Chief
of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations:*

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, on the eighth day of June instant, I issued a Proclamation offering a reward of one thousand dollars for the delivery of the fugitive traitor, Thomas Wilson Dorr, to the proper civil authority; and whereas the said Thomas Wilson Dorr having returned to this State, and assumed the command of a numerous body of armed men, in open rebellion against the Government thereof, has again fled the summary justice that awaited him; I do, therefore, by virtue of authority in me vested, and by advise of the Council, hereby offer an additional reward of four thousand dollars for the apprehension and delivery of the said Thomas Wilson Dorr to the Sheriff of the County of Newport or Providence, within three months from the date hereof.

Given under my hand and seal of the State, at the City of Providence, this twenty-ninth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the sixty sixth.

SAMUEL WARD KING.

By His Excellency's command:

HENRY BOWEN,

Secretary of State.

[The Papers which publish the laws of the State; the Atlas and Daily Advertiser, Boston; Courier, Norwich; Courant, Hartford; Courier and Enquirer, Commercial Advertiser, American, Journal of Commerce, Express and Tribune, New York; United States Gazette, Philadelphia; Evening Journal, Albany; will copy the above three times.]

ARRIVAL OF THE TROOPS AND PRISONERS.

Nearly all the troops were ordered from Chepachet yesterday, and arrived here with about 130 prisoners at five o'clock. The City Guards went out to escort them, and as their arrival was generally expected, the windows and doors of the streets through which they passed were crowded with spectators, and a dense mass assembled in Market Square to welcome the return of their gallant fellow-citizens. We never remember to have seen the streets so crowded. Handkerchiefs waved from the windows, cheers ascended from the sidewalks, and a perfect shower of flowers fell on both sides of the way. Nearly every soldier had a bouquet in his hand or stuck in the end of his musket; the bridles of the horses were ornamented with them, and the cannons were wreathed around from the muzzle to the breech. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm and delight which was manifested on the features of the fair faces that smiled from every window.

General Steadman's Brigade, the Third, brought in about thirty prisoners; that Brigade mustered about five hundred. The prisoners were marched to the State Prison. Colonel Brown, with the Marine Artillery and Light Infantry, followed with the other prisoners; about one hundred of these prisoners were also carried to the State Prison. The spoils consisting of the captured cannons drums, muskets, pikes and munitions of war, were carried along after the companies, and were received with repeated cheers. Including the escort, the number of men under arms was about thirteen hundred, and surely a finer sight never gladdened the good old city. The honest yeomanry of the State, gallant young men and

noble old men, had returned from the performance of the highest duty of a republican citizen, the vindication of the Law; they had put down a traitorous and murderous conspiracy; they had proved themselves worthy of the blood that fills their veins, and had shown that the line of a noble ancestry was destined to suffer no disgrace at their hands.

To them and to their equally gallant associates who were dismissed yesterday, or who still remain at their posts are due the thanks of the State, and not only of the State, but of the Union, for had Dorr succeeded, the evil would not have been confined to Rhode Island. Every State would have felt the shock, and our republican institutions would have trembled beneath the blow. But the crises has been met triumphantly, and the great cause of law and order still rests on its unbroken foundation.

DISPOSITION OF THE TROOPS.

The Bristol Artillery, Newport Volunteers, Middletown Volunteers, Bristol Neck Infantry and Barrington Volunteers, have returned to their homes.

The Third Brigade, The First Light Infantry, and the Marine Artillery have arrived in the city.

The Warren Artillery, and the Warren Volunteers are at Woonsocket, where they arrived yesterday from Chepachet.

The Cadets and the Sea Fencibles remain at Woonsocket. The Newport Artillery are at Chepachet.

The United Train of Artillery, the Kentish Guards, and the Rhode Island Carbineers are at Pawtucket. The Pawtucket Artillery are at Pawtucket, having been ordered to remain there in consequence of the mischievous disposition manifested by the insurgents at the village.

These were the dispositions of the troops at our latest advices last evening. Some of them have probably been altered since, and we may by accident have omitted some.

Since the above was written, the Newport Artillery have arrived in this city. They were received with repeated cheers as they passed along.

Orders No. 61.

Head Quarters Division of Rhode Island Forces.
Tockwotten House, Providence, June 29, 1842.

The Major General Commanding has pleasure in announcing that there is now no immediate call for a continuance of the patriotic services of the troops in the field. They are therefore at liberty to retire for the present to their respective homes, where they will await further orders. The Quarter Master General's Department will furnish the proper transportation to facilitate the execution of this order.

Until further directions the headquarters of the Major General will be continued at the Tockwotten House. All communications will accordingly be addressed to the Adjutant General as usual.

By order of

MAJOR GENERAL MCNEIL.

ELISHA DYER,

Adjutant General.

The following action of the Legislature at its June Session in 1842 was taken:

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Assembly be presented to Major General William Gibbs McNeil for his services as Commander of the military forces of this State, in suppressing the late insurrection.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to General McNeil.

At the same Session the following resolution was also passed.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be requested, at as early a period as he may deem convenient, to issue his proclamation, requesting the people of this State to assemble together in their several places of public worship on a day to be by him designated, in order there to confess before the living God their sins as a people, and with warm and contrite

hearts sincerely offer up to the Father of all mercies their deep and unaffected thanksgiving for the signal interposition of his kind and Fatherly love, so recently and strikingly manifested in rescuing them from the horrors of a civil war, anarchy and death; and to beseech Him to impress this whole people with an active and abiding reverence for His Holy Laws, and that they be enabled through the mercy of Jesus Christ to live in the daily recognition of the great and solemn truth that they are all hastening to a final and eternal retribution.

Before closing my narrative there are two or three matters the omission of a reference to which might subject me to the charge of indifferent forgetfulness, if not injustice or ingratitude.

The first of these would be my relations to Governor King, with whom my first official duties were connected. They were of the most confidential nature. In all my interviews with him I was greatly impressed with the calm and dignified manner in which he received my different communications, whatever might be their nature. I only now at this time recall one exception to this general rule when there was any change in his manner. At the close of the Saturday afternoon drill preceding the one in which was the announcement of the change in the command of the militia of the State, he requested my attendance at an earlier hour than usual. My arrangement had been to report myself daily at eight o'clock in the morning and at six o'clock in the evening, but on this occasion he referred to the absorbing and engrossing daily duties and requested that I pass the following day (which was Sunday), with him, if not inconsistent with my feelings as to the character of the day.

I replied, "That no more appropriate observance of the day could be had than the faithful discharge of any imperative duty, and that I would do as he requested."

The next morning, after I supposed his domestic arrangements for the day had been made, I went to his residence. He asked me if I was aware of the sympathies and sentiments of the military organizations of the city in relation to Mr. Dorr's acts or intentions.

I asked if he referred to their disaffection?

"Yes; that is what I refer to." He then requested me to inform myself critically upon that subject by visiting each company the next day for the purpose of ascertaining that fact.

I replied that I would do so and inform him the result.

The city companies were as follows: The United Train of Artillery, Providence Marine Corps of Artillery, First Light Infantry Company, Second Regiment, Independent Company of National Cadets, Independent Company of Volunteers, there being no efficient organized corps of cavalry.

It was with the deepest regret that I learned that an invitation had been received by each one from Mr. Dorr to join him. The expediency of accepting this invitation was being discussed when I met these companies; but there was, however, one honorable exception, by whom the invitation was promptly declined, their loyalty being a noble prestige of their subsequent honorable record throughout the late war of the Rebellion. Where I had expected to find the greatest loyalty I found the most disaffection. In reporting the results of this investigation to Governor King at my next visit to him, he was evidently much impressed with the information which was given, and expressed much anxiety as to the result.

I remarked to him, "That although the information communicated could be no other than a source of surprise and unfeigned regret, yet I was confident that however much or little disaffection might exist with the city troops, all the others in the different portions of the State would be entirely free from it, and thoroughly reliable, prompt and efficient whenever their services might be required."

He then replied, "Issue orders immediately to all of the efficient organizations in the State to assemble at their respective places of rendezvous, and be ready to march at a moments notice as our future orders shall direct."

Similar orders had been left with the several city organizations at the time of my interview with them.

It should be remarked that all orders from him were of a verbal nature, there being no formal department from which they could be issued, or any place or record. He had previously requested me to give him the earliest information that I might receive of any event or occurrence, whither of greater or less importance, and by night as well as by day, and our interviews were not infrequently protracted until midnight. It is a matter of justice that I should give even at this late time, being the first opportunity which I have had, my expression of my appreciation of the uniform courtesy and kindness, which I always received from him under the varying circumstances of my presence.

The next reference will be to the late Major John R. Vinton, of the United States Army, who was at home on leave of absence at the incipency of Mr. Dorr's insurrection, and keenly watching the wide-spreading and almost contagious nature of the disaffection, he was very soon convinced that its control and suppression were passing beyond the ability

of any civil force to cope with it, and that military power must be invoked. Under this conviction he promptly went to Washington for permission to devote his time and service in the most efficient manner towards preserving the supremacy of the laws of his native State.

He did not receive the desired permission, but was told that the responsibility for his conduct rested upon himself. Notwithstanding this very significant answer, with characteristic self-denial he returned home, and disregarding the consequences which might result from his action and which might effect his whole future life, he offered his time and services to the State authorities. Applications having been made to the President of the United States for assistance which when rendered would be of that character and by those persons whom he might elect, the State authorities were prevented from accepting his patriotic offer of his services. Nothing daunted by this and the nature and extent of service required from the State troops, which might be more comprehensive than that to which he had been accustomed, he proposed the institution of those weekly drills to which reference has been made, under his own personal instruction and supervision.

On page 171, I have also spoken of these weekly drills. I wish here to relate an incident in connection with the character of the men composing the rank and file and their officers. The soldier could be very plainly seen in many of these men.

On the occasion of General McNeil's assumption of the command of the military forces of the State, and when the battalion drill was progressing, it was noted that the company having the extreme right was more than ordinary in their drill, and as the frequent confusions occurred in the other companies, which is very natural to the first drills of this

character; the efficiency of this company became apparent. The General inquired how such a company came to be placed in such a connection, and was informed that it was only a militia company like the rest.

"That a militia company, why sir, such proficiency as they have shown here today would be credible to any company in the Regular service. Is it possible you have militia companies under such excelant discipline?"

At the close of the drill and before the line was dismissed, I was requested to present the Captain to the General, which was a source of much pleasure to me as I had long known him personally. When I returned with the Captain, Major Vinton first addressed him in a very complimentary manner, and when he was presented to the General the words of Major Vinton were heartily endorsed. Colonel Bankhead also made remarks of like character. The Governor very highly appreciated this high compliment to the militia and spoke very appropriately and congratulated the Captain upon the honor he had won for his Company and himself by reason of such military proficiency.

To all these remarks the Captain responded briefly and expressed the great pleasure it would give him to carry such a high compliment to his command.

The Captain above referred to was Capt. James Arnold and he was in command of a company of militia from the town of Cranston on this occasion. His Company certainly presented a fine appearance and were fully entitled to the high compliment that had been given them by the General.

These drills were productive of great advantage, necessarily giving the troops more confidence in the accomplishment of any duty that might be required. They were continued

without interruption until the announcement of the change in the command of the State Troops by the appointment of Major General McNeil, after which he returned to his post of duty.

Major John Rogers Vinton had a highly cultivated mind, refined taste, loyal and patriotic love for this his native State and City. His gallantry and bravery were shown in the many and varied actions in which he participated in the service of the United States. The spotless integrity of his character as a man and Christian endeared him to all who knew him.

The following is a copy of the inscription on his monument in the Swan Point Cemetery:

"Dulce et decarum est pro patria mori," were the last written words of John Rogers Vinton, Brevet Major of Artillery in the United States Army.

He was born in Providence, R. I., June 16th, 1801. He was a Cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1814, was commissioned a Lieutenant in 1817, and after varied and honorable service to his country, both in peace and in war, while serving in the army in the war with Mexico commanded the detachment which captured the Bishop's Castle at Monterey, contributing to the victory of September 22d., 1846. He was in command in the trenches before the city of Very Cruz, where he was slain by the ball which surmounts this monument March 22d., 1847.

From the field of battle his body was transferred to this ground, given by the Swan Point Cemetery, and resolution of the Legislature of his native State was with public honors buried May 12th., 1848."

In relation to order No. 61, as published in the *Providence Journal*, the following explanation is necessary. All orders emanating from General McNeil were reduced to writing, and after having received his approval were regularly numbered and copied in the order book, and before promulgation were critically examined. They were from 1 to 61 inclusive.

The first orders issued naturally referred to the minor details of the office. A copy of each order was furnished by my assistants to the *Providence Journal*, in which the whole regular series were published and which can be found in the files of that paper for that time.

The issuing of order No. 61, was virtually the announcement of the termination of the insurrection and of military service by the troops.

Before closing this narrative mention should be made of the promptness and efficiency of the Quarter-master General's Department, but as my life-long friend, Captain Edward H. Hazard, one of the able corps of assistants, with his vigorous mind, and industrious pen is fully competent to give the minute particulars of the administration of his department, no further reference will be made to it with one exception.

The absence of any efficiently organized cavalry corps has been already referred to. To supply this deficiency in case of any future emergency, Captain Thomas J. Letson, also one of his assistants, was ordered to proceed to Boston to learn what material could be had for the equipment of such a corps. In less than twenty-four hours he returned to headquarters bringing with him sixty horses fully equipped even to picket ropes. It should be here stated that in recognition of the prompt and efficient services of the Quarter-master

and Adjutant General's Departments the rank of their chiefs was advanced from that of Colonel to that of Brigadier General, by the Legislature.

In closing I wish to express my thanks to the rank and file of the State Troops for their prompt and willing response to the orders received without questioning the right of rank or precedent, which under the previously existing circumstances of no record of date of their respective appointments, an intelligent designation of them would have been a matter of impossibility. To my personal acknowledgements to my assistants in my department for their unwearied and complicated service, should be added those of the public generally, contributing so largely as they did to the efficiency of the Department.

My sincere congratulations are extended to my fellow-citizens of this State for maintenance of the integrity and sovereignty of the State without aid outside our own limits.

And last but not least, the sincere gratitude and praise of the people of this State are due to the Divine Ruler of Nations for the interposition of His Providence, by which in the significant fact that in the almost universal possession of fire arms in the hands of so many injudicious and irresponsible persons during the occurrences above narrated, that not a life was sacrificed or a drop of blood shed.

If the younger citizens of our State of the present and succeeding generations would justly appreciate, and with inflexible morality, conscientious honesty and fealty of purpose sustain and promote these soul ennobling principles of its illustrious Founder in 1636. as well as those by which the integrity of its constituted laws and authorities were maintained in 1842, and supplementing all with the cultivation of

skillful and intelligent labor, assist in the progressive production and perfection of the many and varied industrial pursuits of their fellow-citizens by which the present high rank and reputation of our patriotic little State has been attained, its career will be progressively onward and upward to a degree as yet unrealized, in the aiding of which is pledged the earnest prayer and effort for success, of their friend and co-laborer

ELISHA DYER.

Note, 1. In looking over the Schedules for 1842, I find that the gentleman whom I mentioned as discourteously addressing me (page 177), was not a member of the Executive Council; but being with them at the time I supposed him to be one.

I have also ascertained that the person addressing General Greene (page 182), was not one of the Executive Council.

Note, 2. Our author in the above article has frequently spoken of the *Governor's Council*. This may not seem clear to our young readers when they know our State Laws have made no provision for such a body of men. The appointment of this Council came about in this way. At a Session of the General Assembly, held at Providence, on Monday April 25, 1842, the Governor recognizing the gravity of the situation, sent a special message to the Assembly and among other things said:

"I would also suggest to you the expediency of appointing and providing for a BOARD OF COUNCILLORS, to advise with me as to the Executive measures proper to be taken in this emergency, consisting of gentlemen from different parts of the State."

The Assembly appointed agreeably to this request the following gentlemen to be the said Council, viz:

Richard K. Randolph, of Newport; James Fenner, Edward Carrington and Lemuel H. Arnold, of Providence; Nathan F. Dixon, of Westerly; Peleg Wilbur, of Coventry; Byron Diman, of Bristol.

The same Council were reappointed by the Assmby at the following May Session.

The Council appointed Thomas A. Jenckes Esq. as their Secretary.

On the Eighth day of the following August, the Governor by Proclamation declared Martial Law to be suspended throughout the State, on and after September First.

With the suspension of Martial Law, came to an end the duties of the Council and the board accordingly ceased to exist after this last mentioned date.

The Captain James Arnold that our author mentions on page 192, was the father of the Editor of this magazine, and we sincerely thank him for the compliment. The incident has been familiar to us from boyhood and we feel happy to now have this fact so strikingly and authoritively confirmed.


The Editor.

The Register is happy to announce that its future numbers will contain other interesting papers upon this subject written by able pens and men who took a part in the contest. The Editor is preparing a paper giving the origin and history of our State Constitution which will treat the subject from both a philosophical and historical basis, and will give the authorities for the statements made in the article.

THE FIRST SPINNET IN AMERICA.

Boston, August 21, 1883.

Mr. Editor:

 SEND you the following item, taken from "The Boston Gazette and Country Journal," September 18, 1769, which may interest some of your musical antiquaries.

SAMUEL A. GREENE.

"It is with Pleasure we inform the Publick, That a few Days since was ship'd for Newport, a very curious Spinnet, being the first ever made in America; the performance of the ingenious Mr. John Harris, of Boston, (Son to the late Mr. Joseph Harris, of London, Harpsichord and Spinnet Maker, deceas'd), and in every Respect does Honour to that Artist, who now carries on said Business at his House a few Doors Northward of Dr. Clark's, North-End, Boston."

Mr. James E. Mauran, thinks that this Spinnet is at Mrs. Breese's, corner of Thames and Gridley streets Newport.

At the Bristol, Rhode Island Centennary September 24, 1880, was exhibited one of a triangular shape, about four feet long which bore on a tablet this inscription; "Johann Hitchcock, fecit, London, 1520."

Among the curiosities on exhibition at the New Hampshire State Fair, Sept.- 1867, was an iustrument called a Spinnet, owned by Mrs. John A. Baldwin, of Nashua, and imported from London, 1765, by her grandfather, the late Gov. Collins of Newport, R. I.

In the Newport Mercury of May 17, 1773, is advertised, "For Sale a Spinnet of a proper size for a little Miss and of

a most agreeable tone, and plays exceedingly easy on the Keys.

In Oct., 1783, Samuel Thurston, of Newport, sends to New York for a set of Spinet strings.

Newport Historical Magazine, October, 1883.

DESCRIPTION OF A SPINET.

Spinet: A thorn or quill the tone being produced by a crows quill inserted in tongue of a little machine called a jack.

The instrument consists of a chest or belly made of the most porous or resenous wood to be found, and a table of fir fastened on rods called the sound board which bears on the sides. On the table are raised two promances or bridges in which are fixed as many pins as there are strings on the instrument.

It is played with keys like the virginal or small piano-forte. The long keys are for the diatone or natural notes, and the short for the flats and sharps.

The keys when pressed down at the end by the finger on the principle of a lever made the other end throw up jacks which strike the strings and cause the sound by means of the quills with which they are armed.

The thirty thick strings are of brass; the others for the more delicate tones are of steel or iron wire fastened at one end by hooks, and at the other on pins by which they receive their tension over the bridges already mentioned.

The figure of the Spinet is like that of a harpsichord a horizontal harp, and the harp an inverted Spinet. It is tuned in the same manner as other keyed instruments by fifths and eighths with or without bearings as the tuner or owner of the instrument shall please.

The Spinnet had but a single note to each string. As the Spinnet rivaled the Virginal, the small piano-forte has superceded the Spinnet in public favor, and we believe but very few has been made since the middle of the last century.

From Rees Cyclopedia; London, 1819; Article, Spinnet.

New Haven Colony Historical Society's Proceedings, Volume IV. — We have before us this admirable work which contains several papers of great historical value. It is a pleasure to note such things, as it shows that the Society is alive. Both Connecticut and Massachusetts are today favored with historical societies that are a source of pride to the state they represent. Would that a like energy could be brought to Providence.

The Historical Tree of Rhode Island, — designed by Mr. John S. Kellogg; late Chief Clerk of the State Census Office, is a novelty in the way of historical illustration and presents at a glance a large amount of information. It should be in the hands of every citizen and in every public school. The price is only FIFTY cents, a very low price for so desirable a memento, which we trust the good people of the state will not be slow in procuring.

The Liberty Ticket for 1847 was as follows. For Senator, William F. Hammond. For Representatives, 1, Joseph W. Davis; 2, Alfred Lewis; 3, Benajah Williams; 4, James W. Winsor; 5, John W. Cole; 6, John Webster; 7, Joseph A. Cheddle; 8, Daniel Fish; 9, Chace Lewis; 10, Samuel B. Halladay; 11, Henry Coddington; 12, Joseph Whipple.

This Ticket was the first presentation of the party for the endorsement of the people.

S. H. Allen.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Register takes this occasion to extend its most sincere thanks to the Hon. Rowland Hazard, for the interest he has always manifested in the welfare of the Register, and for his princely munificence in providing a Printing Press for our use in the future publishing of the work. With such liberal encouragement, the Editor feels as though new life had been given him and he will show by his future conduct that he appreciates such kindness, and the Register will prove his earnestness in its desire to preserve our States history. By our works only we desire to be known.

The Two Hundred and Fifteth Anniversary of the settlement of Dedham Mass. The Dedham Record of Births Marriages and Deaths 1635 - 1845. Suffolk Deeds, Vol. I.

We take pleasure in announcing the receipt of the above volume from the Dedham Historical Society. The work shows great care in the preparation and no pains seems to have been spared in order to have the information given here reliable and accurate. Massachusetts can take a pride in her energetic Historical Societies and her numerous historical scholars. In truth the State has been very fortunate in this particular.

From Sunday Telegram, June 24, 1888. A Gift to a deserving man. Thanks to the Hon. Rowland Hazard of Peacedale, Mr. Arnold, Editor of the Narragansett Historical Register, has recently come into possession of a press, which will enable him to do his own printing. Mr. Arnold's friends will be glad to know of this improvement in his prospects and they can also render substantial aid by subscribing for his magazine.

A Raw Recruit's War Experiences. By Ansel D. Nickerson, This interesting narrative of the late civil war is well worth reading. The light and shady sides of a soldiers life is faithfully portrayed, especially his life in camp. The style is easy and natural and the scenes and incidents described appear to pass before the eye of the reader, like unto that of a panorama. It is well that so many of our soldiers have thought proper to put their personal experiences in print. In the future, these narratives will become very important unto one who wishes to study this tragic episode from a personal stand-point.

Register of the Department of Rhode Island. This invaluable work by Capt. George H. Pettis, is now printed and in the hands of the public. It gives a great amount of useful information of deep interest both to the soldier and the civilian. The work is happily conceived, admirably indexed and successfully executed.

The First Church of New Haven Conn. 1638 - 1888. Founders Day, 1638 - 1888. Are titles to very interesting historical pamphlets sent us by the New Haven Colony Historical Society. It is a source of satisfaction to see such an interest manifested in local historical matters. Such publications do a vast amount of good and are of lasting benefit. A city that can boast of a live Society like the above is indeed fortunate.

The Historical Tree of Rhode Island. We note with pleasure that Mr. Kellogg's work has been well patronized by both the city of Pawtucket and the town of East Providence. This expenditure of public money is wise. We doubt if the same amount could have been better expended in any other way. It would be a source of satisfaction to us to learn that a copy of this invaluable historical chart had been placed in every school-room in the State, by order of the several towns.

Third Annual Report of the Bureau of Labor.

Through the kindness of the Hon. Commissioner, we have received the above work which is devoted to the history of Strikes and Lockouts. On this particular subject, this work is invaluable to the historian. We have taken a deep interest in this subject from the information given here and shall often turn to it for further particulars. It is beyond all odds the best, as well as the most exhaustive treatment of the question that has as yet, been undertaken.

The Thirty-three Miracles of our Lord. By Rev. A. R. Bradbury. This book of poems is a fine collection of biblical thought and a good contribution to the subject treated. The narrative meter is selected and each miracle is given in poetical word painting, in a style, easy, natural, graceful. We trust that the author may realize his wish and secure a liberal margin beyond his printing bill for so delightful a work. The price is only ONE dollar and the author would be pleased to send copies unto all who may thus favor him with their orders.

The Register, is again late owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Editor, but we trust, not another so serious lateness will come upon us. Thanks to Hon. Rowland Hazard, the next number of the Register will be printed on its own press. All that remains now for our subscribers to do, is to supply us with funds, in order to secure promptness in the future. If our patrons would be a little more prompt here, the Register could work to better advantage than it does at present. We trust now, after having so much done for us in the way of an outfit, that our patrons will now be so thoughtful towards us as to supply the means to continue the enterprise. We see nothing disastrous ahead for the Register if our patrons will only help and will use their influence to enlarge our subscription list.

The Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636 — 1850.

We are much pleased to have notes addressed us offering to take a copy of the same when printed. When we are sure of fifty good names, we shall commence the work and push the first volume to completion. It will be our aim to give a liberal installment in each volume. The printing will be all that could be desired. It will not be printed for mere show, neither will it be presented in a cheap dress, but on fine paper and in a clean clear type, both in style and manner that cannot fail to please, and cannot otherwise be but welcomed to the library of every Rhode Island Scholar. If volume First proves successful, volume Second will immediately follow. It will be a source of great satisfaction with us to learn therefore, that we can depend upon FIFTY patrons in order that we may commence its preparation. The sooner these names are secured, the sooner the work will be undertaken. The work itself, from its very nature will be very limited in the number of its edition, but will depend however, upon how much interest is manifested in the enterprise by its patrons. This great work, the result of many years intense labor, presents its full title page on the third page of the cover of this magazine.

Acknowledgment. The Register has received at various times in the past few years from its friend and patron Mr. E. H. Rodman of Stockton, California, copies of the Newspapers and historical documents from his neighborhood for which we desire to return our sincere thanks therefor and shall always be pleased to be thus kindly remembered by him in the future and whenever our thoughtful friend feels in the mood to so kindly remember us, and we are now in fond hopes to soon be able to return these many kindnesses.

VITAL RECORD

OF

RHODE ISLAND

1636 - 1850

MARRIAGES BIRTHS AND DEATHS

TOGETHER WITH

WILLS AND INVENTORIES

BY JAMES N. ARNOLD

EDITOR OF THE

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. I

PROSPECTUS.

The volume of the Register for 1888, will be in every way worthy of its predecessors.

A practice common with publishers, is to make glowing promises, which however, how well kept, the work testifies in manner more or less corroboratively. A complaint frequent against the Register is, that it goes to the other extreme. The Register has always promised to do its very best, and it has faithfully done so with such means as circumstances has placed within its control. The work it has already performed is proof of this assertion.

The Register has in hand several meritorious articles which it proposes to publish just as soon as the room can be made for them.

The Register has now a printing press at its own disposal and has nearly perfected arrangements by which the cost of the production of each number of the Register in the future will be very much materially reduced. The Editor proposes to take every possible advantage to lighten the expenses of the publication.

It would seem therefore, that a magazine like unto that of the Register, and at present the only one of its class printed in the State; it would certainly seem such a work ought to live and assuredly deserves a share of the public patronage. That it is doing a much needed work is conceded; that it has made and is making a gallant fight against overwhelming odds, must be acknowledged. No one can truthfully accuse the Register of a want of energy. Why the Register has never been better supported than it has been so far, is one of those questions, that can be asked far easier than it can be answered. The most deserving often have to wait the longest for their reward and certainly the Register is deserving of some reward for what good it has already done in its chosen field.

